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# BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 31 • No. 13 • 29 March 2001

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971



A red ribbon draped around City Hall was on the drawing board for the city's anniversary marking 20 years of the AIDS epidemic, but the idea has apparently been taken off the table, according to the mayor's HIV/AIDS policy adviser.

## Activists see red over ribbon plan

by Katie Szymanski

**W**hat is the best way to mark 20 years of the AIDS epidemic? Some would say by making a symbolic gesture. Others would opt to extend services to people left out of the system. And still others would rather forgo the fanfare entirely, noting that people with AIDS deserve to be recognized and cared for even when it's not the anniversary of their illness.

As events behind closed doors started to unravel this past month, it has become clear that some grassroots activists and smaller AIDS organizations are at odds with what a city coalition had apparently proposed for "Marking the Milestone: 20 Years of AIDS."

In more specific terms, it appears as though San Francisco's City Hall

was very close to wearing the largest red ribbon ever to be tied in remembrance.

Detailed minutes from March 7 and March 16 meetings – involving Mike Shriver, HIV/AIDS policy adviser to Mayor Willie Brown; Dr. Tom Coates, director of the University of California San Francisco's Center for AIDS Prevention Studies and the AIDS Research Institute; and a coalition of AIDS groups – credit Shriver with proposing and moving forward the ribbon idea, hoping that it would "become an international symbol drawing worldwide media attention." Plans called for the ribbon to be unveiled by Mayor Brown on June 5 during an event that would feature the reading of names of victims, the ringing of church bells, and

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## Celebrate the B.A.R.'s 30th anniversary Sunday

**T**he Bay Area Reporter marks its 30th anniversary in April and to celebrate the event, the paper's longest-running columnist, Sweet Lips, is hosting a party this Sunday, April 1, at Club Rendez-Vous, 1312 Polk Street, at Bush.

Interested members of the community are welcome to attend the event, which runs from noon to 6 p.m. and includes a no-host bar and hors d'oeuvres.

"It's been a wild ride," said the B.A.R.'s Mister Marcus, another long-time columnist who chronicles the leather community for the paper.

Mister Marcus, Wayne Friday, and porn columnist John Karr all have been with the paper for many years.

It was April 1971 when publishers Bob Ross and Paul Bentley put out the first issue of the B.A.R., which started out being distributed in the city's various gay bars. Over the years the newspaper has evolved to cover virtually every facet of the Bay Area's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community and is available around the region as well as in selected cities across the country. Bentley later sold his interest in the publication to Ross, who continues to publish the paper. ▼

— Cynthia Laird

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## Gay man guilty in Arkansas murder

by Katie Szymanski

**W**hile the truth about the tragic death of a 13-year-old Arkansas boy may never be entirely known, one thing is certain: the conservative media, swayed by the Christian right and other homophobic influences, had a field day with the alleged murderer, a gay man who admitted to engaging in sex and bondage with the minor.

Jesse Dirkhising died in 1999 from suffocation during what prosecutors have described as forced sodomy and the defense has maintained as consensual sex. He was the victim of "homosexual rape and ritual," according to the Washington Times. His mur-

der was largely ignored by the liberal media, according to various "family" groups, because condemning pedophilia would be seen as contrary to advancing the gay agenda.

In many ways, defendant Joshua Macabe Brown, now 23, never had a chance, and last week an Arkansas jury found him guilty of rape and first-degree murder, sparing him the death penalty but basically ensuring him a life in prison. His co-defendant and lover, Davis Don Carpenter, 39, will face trial at a later date.

Dirkhising, the son of Carpenter's friend, spent many weekends with the couple, reportedly working in Carpenter's salon. On the date in question, Brown has acknowledged, he bound and gagged the boy and sexually penetrated him with a va-

riety of objects, apparently with Carpenter's knowledge. After a late-night break to eat a sandwich and pick up some duct tape, Brown returned to find that Dirkhising was not breathing, and he called for help. Responding authorities found the naked boy, a bloody pillow, and a pair of underwear that apparently was stuffed into Dirkhising's mouth.

The case struck an uneasy chord with members of the LGBT and leather communities, many of whom recognized the unfairness of conservative coverage but at the same time were grateful for the distinction made between consensual and non-consensual activities, the very distinctions that they must emphasize in order to de-villainize

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FIRST OF TWO SECTIONS



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# Spirit of Dorr Jones lives on in senior center

by David Fraser

It was polkas, fox trots, and cheers as the Dorrwin Jones Senior Center was formally opened on March 22 at Trinity Episcopal Church in San Francisco in memory of the gay and civil rights pioneer.

Bubbly Filipino women dressed in formal white and showing no signs of age whatsoever bustled through the church dining hall ensuring that things moved along. Smiling Trinity pastors dressed in formal black ushered hordes of guests around and mingled with everyone.

Mayor Willie Brown cut a fancy ribbon stretched across the church entrance to inaugurate the center, named for Jones, a widely known San Francisco-based activist.

The center will be a site for Meals on Wheels to serve hot meals to seniors. Dorrwin Buck Jones founded Meals on Wheels here 30 years ago, as well as many other social and progressive organizations. He died at the age of 66 in January.

"He loved people, he loved seniors, he loved food," said Pastor Robert Cromey. "He would have loved it here today."

Cromey pointed out that Meals on Wheels initially operated out of Trinity's kitchen and thus was "returning home."

In his brief remarks, the mayor said, "I'm delighted to open this center," adding that Meals on Wheels operates "365 days a year and 366 in leap years." The city provides ongoing funding for the meals program.



Mayor Willie Brown and senior supporters at the grand opening March 22 of the Dorrwin Jones Senior Center's noon lunch program.

Bay Area Reporter publisher Bob Ross, who serves on the board of Meals on Wheels, first met Jones about 40 years ago. He noted after Jones died that the activist, despite heart problems, "became the ultimate authority on the rights of seniors and their many problems before it was ever fashionable."

"Then along came the AIDS epidemic and Dorr jumped into this fight with a zeal that was remarkable. Many of the organizations that handle this disease today are an outgrowth of many efforts on the part of Dorr in this fight."

"This giant of a man has left a very definite legacy in San Francisco," Ross said.

Rich Lipner, executive director of Meals on Wheels, said the bulk of funding for refurbishment at

the church would come from the Mayor's Office of Community Development and foundations.

The Jones Center is being funded operationally by the Department of Aging and Adult Services.

Lipner said the OCD is expected to release funds in July to help with a wheelchair-accessible rest room, and a new accessibility entrance. Work will start thereafter.

The OCD, which provides the funds for refurbishment, said the \$91,000 in funding under a community development block grant, has been recommended but the grant has not yet been finalized.

More than 200 San Francisco residents will be served daily at the Jones Center, with a suggested donation of \$1, Lipner said. ▽

## Dignity/SF hosts awards program Saturday

by Cynthia Laird

Sister Jeannine Gramick, who has drawn the wrath of the Vatican for her gay and lesbian ministry, and Dick Kramer, founder of the Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus, have been named as recipients of the 2001 Pax et Bonum Awards by Dignity/San Francisco. The awards will be presented at Dignity/SF's annual dinner this Saturday, March 31 in the Savoy Room at the Crowne Plaza Union Square, 480 Sutter Street, at Powell, in San Francisco.

The title of the awards, which is translated from Latin as "peace and good," refers to a blessing of Saint Francis of Assisi, patron saint of both the city of San Francisco and Dignity/SF. The local chapter belongs to the national Dignity organization which advocates on behalf of LGBT Catholics, their friends, and families.

Two chapter members, Wanda J. Redman and David C. Turner, also will be receiving awards.

Gramick is being recognized for her 30-year ministry to lesbian and gay Catholics. In 1977 she co-founded New Ways Ministry, a social justice center working for the reconciliation of lesbian and gay people and the Catholic church. Her group was investigated by the Vatican, which prohibited her from performing pastoral work.

Last May, the Vatican asked her religious congregation to prohibit her from speaking about the investigation and about homosexuality. Gramick responded that it is a basic human right to be able to speak about one's experience and that she chose not to collaborate in her own oppression. She has come to the city twice since the ban, visiting both Dignity and Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco.

Kramer is being recognized for his leadership on the gay musical scene in the city and the Bay Area over the last 20 years. He joined the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus in November 1978, on the day that Supervisor Harvey Milk and

Mayor George Moscone were murdered. He later became its director and led the chorus on its 1981 U.S. tour. In 1982, he formed the Dick Kramer Gay Men's Chorus, now known as the Golden Gate Men's Chorus. In 1999, he founded the Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus, which continues today.

Redman has served the chapter since 1991 as the music minister. As music director, she has worked in a number of Catholic elementary schools, and Catholic and public high schools in Oakland and San Francisco.

Turner came to Dignity/SF from the St. Louis chapter. In his seven years with the local group, he has contributed to the chapter's mission as chair of the membership committee and diversity task force and spearheaded the chapter's street fair participation.

No-host cocktails start at 7 p.m., the dinner and program begin at 8. Tickets start at \$50 per person. For more information, call (415) 681-2491. ▽

## Last chance to vote for grand marshal

by Katie Szymanski

The San Francisco LGBT Pride Committee has been busy adding new polling places for the public to cast votes for this year's parade grand marshals.

Mission district lesbians, luckily, won't have to go too far to find a bal-

lot box, but they will have to act fast: there will be a site at the Lexington Club, but only tonight (Thursday, March 29), from 8 to 11 p.m.

Boys from the old school should cruise over to Kimos on Polk Street, Saturday March 31, from 9 p.m. to 12 a.m.

And East Bay residents can pick their favorites at the Pacific

Center for Human Growth, 2712 Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley, in the afternoon of Saturday, March 31, and the evenings of Monday, April 2, and Tuesday, April 3.

More details and additional sites are expected to be added; visit [www.sfpride.org](http://www.sfpride.org) and click the red button for information, or call (415) 864-0831. ▽



## AIDS drugs for Africa



**D**rummers Juliette Shinkin, Gordon Irlam, and Mel Simmons, from left, joined over 30 AIDS activists at a March 21 picket in San Francisco outside the AmFar reception for the National AIDS Update conference, sponsored by Bristol-Myers Squibb. The company has not withdrawn from the patent lawsuit against the South African government, which is seeking use of generic AIDS drugs, although the company did announce it would allow other firms to produce its AIDS medication, stavudine (Zerit).

## Charges filed in dog mauling case

by Ed Walsh

**S**an Francisco prosecutors are bracing themselves for a battle and an expected change of venue petition from Robert Noel and Marjorie Knoller, the husband-wife caretakers of the dogs involved in the fatal January 26 attack on Diane Whipple.

On Tuesday, March 27, a grand jury handed down indictments against the attorney couple who surrendered without incident to police in Corning, in Tehama County, more than 170 miles northeast of San Francisco.

Knoller, 45, was charged with second-degree murder, involuntary manslaughter, and keeping a mischievous animal that killed a human being. She was held on \$2 million bail. If convicted, she could be sentenced to 15-years-to-life.

Noel, 59, was charged with in-

voluntary manslaughter and keeping a mischievous animal that killed a human being. He was held on \$1 million bail.

Jurors apparently felt the second-degree charge should be applied to Knoller and not to Noel because the two Presa Canario dogs were in Knoller's custody at the time of the attack.

In an interview with the *Bay Area Reporter* before the indictments were handed down, Noel said he would seek a change of venue if charges were brought.

Kate Kendell, the executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights and one of the lawyers representing Whipple's partner, Sharon Smith, told the *B.A.R.* that she was generally pleased with the indictments.

"I would be more pleased if a second-degree indictment had also come down against Robert Noel, who I believe the evidence



Marjorie Knoller

indicates was the instigator of the ownership of the dogs and certainly was the more dominant of the two," said Kendell. "But I was very fearful that there would be no second-degree murder indictment but I'm gratified that there is at least one."

Smith told Kendell that she was satisfied with the indictments. Noel and Knoller still live next door but Kendell said the couple hasn't been seen around there

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## Court hears Oakland medical pot case

by Liz Highleyman

**O**n Wednesday March 28, as the *Bay Area Reporter* went to press, the Supreme Court heard arguments in the U.S. Department of Justice's case against the Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative (OCBC). At issue is whether patients who can demonstrate "medical necessity" may obtain and use medical marijuana.

The possession and use of medicinal cannabis is permitted under California's Proposition 215, which was passed by voters in 1996. Patients use the herb to relieve loss of appetite related to AIDS, nausea caused by cancer and anti-HIV drugs, and muscle spasms and pain related to multiple sclerosis and other conditions. The law allows for the medicinal use of cannabis with a doctor's recommendation, but did not include provisions for cannabis distribution.

Since Proposition 215 was approved, medical marijuana ballot initiatives have been passed by voters in Alaska, Colorado, Nevada, Oregon, Maine, Washington state and Washington, D.C.; Hawaii has a medicinal cannabis law enacted

by the state Legislature. Federal laws prohibit the possession, use, and distribution of marijuana for medical or any other reason.

Yesterday's hearing is the latest skirmish in a four-year battle over whether organizations can sell or otherwise distribute medical marijuana. In January 1998, the federal government filed a lawsuit against the OCBC and five other California buyers' clubs. Federal Judge Charles Breyer issued a preliminary injunction imposing a ban on cannabis sales. Since that time, the OCBC - which is the only remaining original defendant in the case - has only sold hemp products and maintained its patient database.

In September 1999, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals reversed Breyer's ruling and instructed him to reconsider the case, recognizing "medical necessity" as a viable defense. The court said that the OCBC had "identified a strong public interest in the availability of a doctor-prescribed treatment that would help ameliorate the condition and relieve the pain and suffering of a large group of persons with serious or fatal illnesses." The court further stated that

the federal government had "offered no evidence to rebut evidence that cannabis is the only effective treatment for a large group of seriously ill individuals."

In July 2000, Breyer reversed himself and allowed the OCBC to provide cannabis to patients with proof of medical need. The federal government then filed an emergency petition with the Supreme Court, arguing that Breyer's ruling would "promote disrespect and disregard for an act of Congress that is central to combating illicit drug trafficking." Last August, the high court ruled 7-1 that the Oakland club could not distribute medicinal cannabis while the case was under appeal, and in November agreed to hear the case. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, the brother of Charles Breyer, has recused himself from the case.

The Supreme Court will not rule directly on the issue of cannabis sales by medical marijuana clubs, but rather on whether medical necessity may be used as a defense against federal drug laws. According to OCBC attorney Robert Raich, "Once the justices recognize what's really at stake in this case, if any semblance of justice prevails then so will we." ▼

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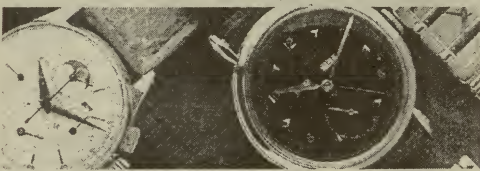


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# Armed robbers hit the Castro and Mission

by Jane Warner

A series of armed robberies hit the Upper Market area last weekend, and police believe that all the incidents involved the same suspects. In two of cases, the suspects sexually assaulted their victims.

The first robbery happened on Saturday, March 24 at 12:30 a.m. on the 900 block of South Van Ness. A woman had left her garage door open while she fed her pet rabbit and suddenly, two men burst into the open garage screaming, "Where's the money, bitch?" One of the men chambered a round into the silver semi-automatic handgun he was holding and placed it to the back of the woman's head. The second suspect also pointed a gun at the woman and began to search for her valuables, groping her as he put his hands under her bra and underwear. The suspects told the woman to lie face down on the floor of the garage and count to 100. Both men ran out in an unknown direction.

About an hour later, two women walking westbound on 20th near Church Street were suddenly surprised by a man who stepped between two parked cars

and told them, "Don't move. Where's the money?" One woman noticed the man was holding a silver semi-automatic handgun in his right hand. The man told the women to face each other as a second suspect approached them from behind. Both men went through the women's pockets and clothing looking for valuables, groping them as they put their hands underneath their bras and underwear. The men forced the women to lay face down on the sidewalk as they went through their book bags.

The suspects got into a newer white Ford driven by a third suspect and drove westbound on 20th then northbound on Church Street.

About five minutes later, two women who had just parked their Land Rover on Hancock near Sanchez were getting out of the car when a man quickly walked toward them. Both women, fearing something may be wrong, got back into their SUV and locked the doors. The man approached the driver's side window and brandished a silver handgun, telling the women, "We're going to shoot you." Fearing for their lives, the women unlocked the car doors and the man pulled the driver from her seat and took her purse. A second suspect took the passenger's purse. The men ran to

a nearby parked car, described as a white Ford Contour or Taurus with paper dealer plates that read, "Hancock Motors."

A few minutes later, a man parking his Subaru Forester in his driveway on the 600 block of Church Street near the foot bridge in Dolores Park saw two figures walk around the back of his car. One of the figures approached him on the driver's side and brandished a silver semi-automatic handgun from his jacket, pointing it through the closed window. Knowing he was being robbed, the man opened his car door, and the suspect dragged him out by the arm, screaming, "Get on the motherfucking ground." The man complied and the two suspects took his wallet, keys, and wrist watch. The robbers then fled around the corner and the victim heard a car quickly accelerate and drive away.

The suspects in all the incidents are described as African American males, 20-30 years old. The first suspect is 5 feet 8 inches tall, 200 pounds and "pudgy," wearing a dark knit beanie cap, black or navy blue pea coat with dark pants, and clean shaven. The second suspect is 5 feet 7 inches, thin build, also wearing a dark beanie, pea coat, and dark pants. There is no description available of the third suspect who was driving the car. Anyone with information about the robberies should call (415) 553-9257. ▼

## 'Stripper's Ball' benefit Sun.

by Katie Szymanski

Queerness, activism, and any type of work that expresses sexuality are among the last few forms of discrimination upon which this country's justice system can arbitrarily declare a good parent unfit to raise a child. It is therefore in the interest of the LGBT community to support Daisy Anarchy, an adult dancer and activist currently in prison for refusing to turn over custody of her 9-year-old daughter to an allegedly abusive father.

This Sunday, April 1, Hi Femme Productions and Drag Strip present "The Stripper's Ball," a benefit for Daisy Anarchy's legal defense fund, at the ever-hip dance venue The Justice League, 628 Divisadero (at Hayes), in San Francisco. The event features comedian/supervisor Tom Ammiano; emcees Lynce Breedlove and Fudgie Frottag; Jade Blue Eclipse; Putanesca; Ramona's Dance of Fire; Dave Whittaker; The Ivy Monroe Band; a fashion show with Ruby Girl Designs; disc jockeys Androgynous Androids; Sisters Kitty Katalyst, Dana Van Iquity, Oletta B. Demonio, Kandy Korn, Sin D. Margolis; and of course, strippers galore.

The event is sponsored by Annie Sprinkle, BarstoClubs.com, the Bike Messengers Coalition, Blavod Black Vodka, Charles Gatewood, Cleis Press, Damon Votour, Fairy Butch, FatRandy Designs, Fetish Magazine, Good Vibrations, Gotham

Body Piercing, HEAR Project, The Justice League, Kathleen Wood, Maggie Rubenstein, PAM Graphic Design, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, and Vixen Creations.

On December 21, Daisy Anarchy was arrested in front of Toys R Us in San Francisco for custody of her daughter, Olivia. Custody of Olivia was given to the father despite his abusive history documented by both hospital and police reports. Daisy, a member of the executive board of the Harvey Milk Insti-

tute, a supporter of Tom Ammiano's campaigns, a poet, and a co-founder of the Exotic Dancers' Alliance, remains incarcerated today.

Admission to the Stripper's Ball is \$20, although more cash is recommended for an assorted array of donated goods available through silent auction. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show goes from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. More information is available by calling (415) 282-5378 or visiting [www.barstoclubs.com/strippers-ball](http://www.barstoclubs.com/strippers-ball). ▼

## Get those Pride essays in

by Cynthia Laird

Have you always wanted to see your name in print? Now is your chance as the Bay Area Reporter is seeking essays from readers about what LGBT Pride means to them.

Many changes have occurred in the LGBT communities over the years. Younger queers are coming out earlier, which has resulted in gay-straight alliances popping up throughout the country. Older gays and lesbians have seen progress in obtaining equal rights, though much more needs to be done.

And yet, every June, the diverse LGBT communities come together and throw one of the Bay Area's biggest parties, the Pride Parade and related events.

This year, the B.A.R. wants to hear from you, our readers. In 500 words or less, tell us what Pride means to you, and why you participate in what has become both a celebration and a political statement. What makes Pride special? What things should we keep fighting for, and what makes the Bay Area one of the best places to live if you're queer?

We'll run as many responses as we can in our upcoming Pride issue. Essays must include your name, city, and a daytime phone number for verification. Submissions can be mailed to: B.A.R. Pride Essays, 395 9th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 or e-mailed to [BARpaper@aol.com](mailto:BARpaper@aol.com). The deadline for entries is Thursday, April 5. ▼



## Family Night at the Y



Jane Philomeno/Celand

**M**om Jennifer Smallwood, left, reaches out to her 2-year-old daughter, Xena Wolf, as she plays at the Berkeley YMCA's annual Family Night event for LGBT families last Saturday, March 24. The event was organized by Jon Logan of the Our Family group.

## Stanford presents 'Queer Awareness Days'

by David Fraser

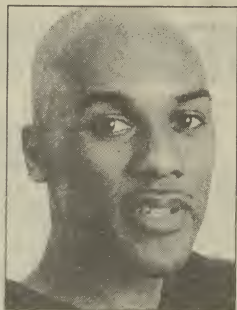
**S**tanford University students are bringing to campus top queer speakers and performers from Kate Clinton to David Sedaris to Andrew Sullivan as part of Queer Awareness Days (QuAD) 2001.

The headliners' appearances are part of "Out in All Directions," the theme of this year's two-week event, sponsored primarily by the LGBT Community Center, an independent campus student organization.

QuAD 2001, an independent program, has been operating for about 25 years, putting on a series of events every April. This year's series is open to the public and runs April 2-13.

Except for Clinton's performance at Cubberly Auditorium, events are free. QuAD's volunteer student organizers said they would welcome donations, however.

"We're trying this year to focus



Keith Boykin

on different issues," Matthew Sanders, director of QuAD 2001, told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

"With the theme Out in All Directions, we're trying to bring together a diverse group of speakers who have different perspectives on what it means to be queer. They'll talk about how being queer has influenced their roles as activists,

artists, comedians, and so on."

Speakers include comedian Clinton, author and commentator Sullivan, transgender activist Dana Rivers, documentary filmmaker Tom Shepard, African American activist and author Keith Boykin, in addition to author and comedian Sedaris, whose appearance is sold out.

Sanders, a second-year law student, said QuAD takes various forms. It is the largest queer-related event at Stanford, and attempts to raise awareness of queer issues on campus and beyond.

In previous years, QuAD's focus has ranged from hate crimes legislation to the political, religious and business frontiers for queer rights struggles. ▼

For more information, call Matthew Sanders at (650) 497-2631. QuAD's site is: [www.stanford.edu/group/quad2001](http://www.stanford.edu/group/quad2001). The Center's Web site is: [www.stanford.edu/group/QR/](http://www.stanford.edu/group/QR/)

## Queers march for Chavez this Saturday

by Katie Szymanski

**I**t took way too much work and time to secure a respected community leader his place in history, but the first ever statewide holiday honoring Cesar Chavez will finally be celebrated on March 31, what would have been Chavez's 74th birthday.

Chavez — a tireless fighter on behalf of laborers, the founder of the United Farm Workers union, and an organizer of strikes against growers to improve conditions for agricultural laborers — was able to bring together diverse

communities in the struggle for social justice. To remember his efforts and accomplishments, a parade and festival will be held in San Francisco on Saturday, and members and supporters of both Pride at Work and the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club are invited to march with the organizations.

Those interested in marching as an LGBT contingent in the Chavez parade should meet Pride at Work and the Milk Club under the PAW banner at 11 a.m. at Market between Beale and Main streets. The group will march with the rest of the parade at noon and

spill out into the rally and celebration at Civic Center Plaza.

"We don't know of any other LGBT groups in the parade. There may well be, but we'll certainly serve as that if people don't know where else to go," said Vince Quackenbush, an organizer of the contingent. "Cesar was one of the first labor leaders to endorse gay rights. He was on our side for a long time."

Marchers should dress comfortably and feel free to bring appropriate banners. More information is available by calling (415) 790-2275 or e-mailing [vquack@hotmail.com](mailto:vquack@hotmail.com). ▼

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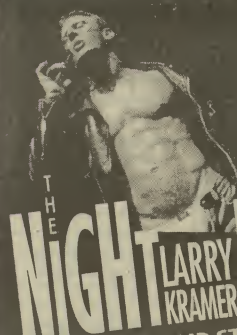
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## OPEN FORUM

## Deny, deny, deny

Who knows what the city of San Francisco will do to mark the 20th year of the AIDS epidemic this June? Will there be a giant red ribbon placed around City Hall? Probably not, as AIDS activists seem to have quashed the lavish display that, according to minutes from two planning meetings involving AIDS organization representatives, researchers, prevention advocates, and others, clearly was on the list of items being considered as a way to commemorate the solemn occasion.

Yet, the mayor's AIDS policy adviser, Mike Shriver, denied the red ribbon idea was ever a part of the plan, even as the meeting minutes prove otherwise. In fact, the minutes indicate Shriver—who attended at least two of the meetings—either came up with the idea or supported the idea in the hope that it would become an "international symbol drawing worldwide media attention," the March 7 minutes state.

Shriver was to set up a meeting with the mayor to discuss the ribbon plan, and coordinate the ribbon hanging at City Hall, according to minutes from the March 16 meeting: "The June Milestone event began to take shape at today's meeting, as described in the working outline below. Also included are action items various team members have agreed to coordinate." Those minutes also indicate that rainbow flag-maker Gilbert Baker was to be contacted to see if he could make the giant ribbon, although Baker told us this week that so far he hasn't heard from anyone.

According to the minutes, the red ribbon idea was very much alive with a date of June 5 selected for the grand unveiling. Not, so, says Shriver, it was never part of the plan.

Why get so riled up about a giant red ribbon? For one thing, we find Shriver's denials disingenuous and lacking all credibility. For another, we know from firsthand experience that denial is the way Shriver operates.

Back in January, after the highly-touted HIV consensus meeting, Shriver and others were guests on a KQED-FM radio program discussing rising HIV infection rates and

other issues. We had heard that Shriver had disparaged the Bay Area Reporter on the air and so we asked him about it. He denied point blank that he made such remarks on the program.

So, we got a tape of the broadcast and heard Shriver make critical comments about the paper's coverage of HIV infection rates to the point at which the program's host had to cut him off because there was no one from the paper to respond to his diatribe.

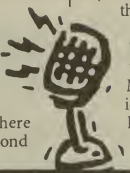
This pattern of denial is problematic because it raises questions about what Shriver says. And when it comes to HIV/AIDS, there is already plenty of misinformation; we don't need it coming from the mayor's adviser. The red ribbon itself isn't the issue, it's the larger

pattern of denial that we find troublesome. In his obsession to fend off criticism of an unpopular idea or acknowledge responsibility when he's said something, Shriver takes the easy way out—deny, deny, deny.

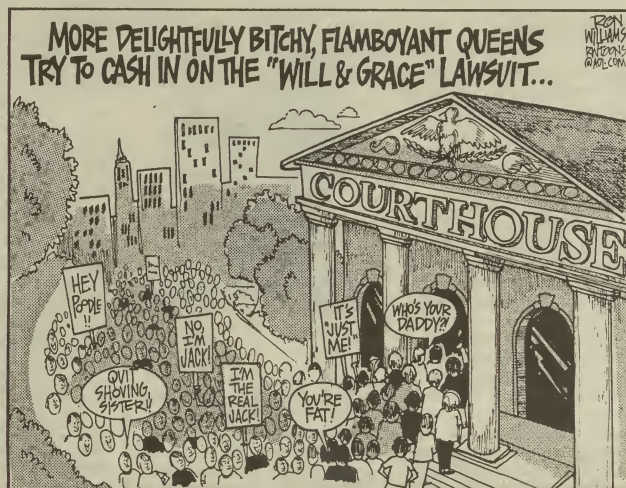
Fortunately, Project Open Hand's Tom Nolan is more honest. Nolan, who was one of the attendees at the March 7 meeting when the red ribbon idea was first mentioned, told us that he supported the ribbon plan until objections were raised. What is the harm in Shriver admitting a similar change of heart?

What could have been a non-issue or a simple disagreement over a tied ribbon has become symbolic of the way Shriver twists the truth into knots.

We expect Shriver to be more straightforward in the future. ▼



## Editorial



## Speaking about gender expression and identity

by Elizabeth Birch

Last week the Human Rights Campaign Board of Directors and Governors voted to expand the organization's mission statement to include gender expression and identity. This action was taken to memorialize and build upon the organization's growing and substantial work in this area.

HRC recognizes there are organizations and leaders that have been focused on issues related to gender identity as their core mission, and that these leaders and institutions will necessarily be the primary voice on issues that affect the lives of transgender Americans.

Adopted in 1998 as part of HRC's five-year strategic plan, the previous mission statement read as follows: "As America's largest gay and lesbian organization, the Human Rights Campaign provides a national voice on gay and lesbian issues. The Human Rights Campaign effectively lobbies Congress; mobilizes grassroots action in diverse communities; invests strategically to elect a fair-minded Congress; and increases public understanding through innovative education and communication strategies."

"HRC is a bipartisan organization that works to advance equality for lesbian, gay, and bisexual Americans to ensure they can be open, honest, and safe at home, at work, and in the community."

In the newly amended mission statement the second paragraph has been replaced with: "HRC is a bipartisan organization that works to advance equality based on sexual orientation and gender expression and identity, to ensure that gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Americans can be open,

honest, and safe at home, at work, and in the community."

We at HRC believe that changing our mission is an honest reflection of HRC's work at this moment in the institution's history. Although HRC's primary focus is on issues related to sexual orientation, it also has an important institutional commitment to issues related to gender expression and identity. HRC views this step as honest and proportional.

Through the years HRC has worked to build alliances with transgender organizations and leaders and recognizes that the issues that affect lesbian, gay, and bisexual Americans and transgender Americans are often related one to the other. Whether viewed as being on an integrated or parallel journey, HRC believes transgender Americans are an important part of our collective quest for equality.

HRC is committed to educating the public on issues that affect transgender Americans. HRC will continue to work at the local, state, and federal level in coalition with transgender organizations and transgender leadership, and while, at times, we might not always agree, the change to the mission statement is intended to reflect an important and affirming demonstration of good faith.

Many will ask: what does this mean for HRC's legislative priorities, including the Employment Non-Discrimination Act? HRC will maintain its current legislative priorities. Two of those priorities, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and ENDA will not change substantially in form or substance.

HRC will continue to work to ensure

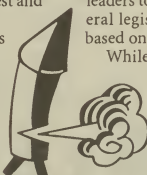
that transgender Americans are covered under the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and is committed to working to help educate Congress and the public at large on issues that affect transgender Americans, including employment discrimination. HRC will continue its work to advance supportive policies in America's workplaces, and is committed to working with transgender leaders to assist in the creation of other federal legislative vehicles to protect people based on gender expression and identity.

While HRC recognizes that there are those who will only be satisfied when ENDA is altered to include gender identity, it is our assessment that many congressional members are invested in the bill

in its current form and that any changes would not be well received on Capitol Hill. It is evident to many that substantial education is necessary to garner a far deeper understanding regarding gender expression and identity before a bill addressing this issue would be deemed viable.

Nevertheless, we at HRC, believe that while we face enormous challenges as a community and as an organization, we must arm each other with the conviction that—with focus, strength and investment—we can win passage so that every gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender American can be open, honest, and safe at home, at work, and in the community. ▼

Elizabeth Birch is executive director of the Human Rights Campaign. For more information, go to the Web site, [www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org).



## Guest Opinion



## LETTERS

## Successful center event

I attended the SF LGBT Community Center "Bacchanal" event on March 16 and was thrilled that such a large and diverse LGBT crowd turned out to make it a success. Rarely has an event organized around such a serious and important purpose – raising the resources necessary to complete the new SF LGBT Community Center under construction on Market Street – been so much fun!

While the crowd wore togas and gladiator gear, everyone remained focused on the mission – raising the final dollars we need to finish the center. I hope everyone in our community will take a minute to visit the center's Web site at [www.sfcenter.org](http://www.sfcenter.org) and find out how you can get involved in putting the center "over the top." With events like the recent Bacchanal, it's rewarding, important, and fun.

Jody Cole  
San Francisco

## Center will link groups

One of the best things about the new SF LGBT Community Center providing office space to so many local LGBT organizations will be the closer cooperation and coordination among groups that will come from working in such close proximity ["Community Center tenants announced," March 22].

The Online Policy Group/QueerNet will be able to provide free Web and e-mail list hosting, as well as computer-based trainings and policy forums to tenants at the center, as well as to the many diverse clients of the center.

In Los Angeles, New York and other cities where local organizations share office space in those cities' community centers, a renewed spirit of cooperation, new vision, and even expanded and coordinated services have resulted.

San Francisco is a smaller city, compared to New York City or Los Angeles, but we're just as diverse. Working together in the new community center, we'll be able to serve our LGBT clients better and forge a powerful new sense of unity for our community.

Will Doherty, Executive Director  
Online Policy Group  
San Francisco

## Delanoë didn't sell out

The city's LGBT political establishment should note that Paris' new gay, socialist mayor, Bertrand Delanoë, apparently achieved his victory neither by selling out the rights of smokers in bars and restaurants, nor by collaborating with the closure of gay bathhouses (of which Paris has about a dozen). Now that Delanoë has shown the way, I see no reason to support either Supervisor Tom Ammiano or Assemblywoman Carole Migden for that job in this town should they run. Are you listening, Senator Burton?

Vive La France and its City of Light – and liberty.

Reid Condit  
San Francisco

## Activist doesn't benefit

We were amazed to read that tenant activist Robert Haaland is benefiting "directly from the expensive litigation that has resulted from thousands of housing regulations" (Mailstrom, March 22).

As an attorney, Robert is not involved with any tenant or housing litigation that we know of – nor has he ever been. He has never personally benefited from any such litigation. He doesn't even practice law right now. His classmates may be making hundreds of thousands of dollars downtown but Robert sure as hell isn't.

As a tireless activist and co-chair of the Harvey Milk Democratic Club he has put in thousands of hours defending the rights of tenants in this town. He's walked precincts, staffed phone lines, tabled corners and done myriad of other tedious tasks to guarantee that we still have rent control, and that seniors, people of color, and low-income folks can still live in San Francisco.

But that doesn't seem to concern the proponents of TICs, such as Joseph Capko. Nowhere in his letter does he talk about the 1,000 people who were evicted for TICs last year nor the thousands that could still be evicted if Supervisor Chris Daly's legislation does not pass. This is the issue, Mr. Capko. Seniors, low-income people, people of color, and working people get evicted so that a small percent of people can buy so-called affordable housing for upwards of \$400,000. Is that what Tenants for Homeownership is all about? Evict those who can't afford ownership so that a small percent of tenants can become homeowners? That's what is happening to the queer community as well as the city as a whole. Sacrifice the poor, people of color, and the elderly. In other words, business as usual. This is not what any queer leaders that we know fought for.

Daly's legislation will help stop the displacement of the most vulnerable among us. It will keep us in

our homes. It will protect all of us, including those tenants who oppose the legislation. That's why we support Daly and Haaland and the work that both are doing to save San Francisco.

Tommi Aviccoli Mecca, Rebecca Logue-Bovee,  
and Janice Winchester  
San Francisco

## Dispelling the TIC myths

Joseph Capko has written perhaps the most distorted anti-TIC legislation diatribe to date (Mailstrom, March 22). Not only is he misguided in stating that the legislation amounts to a practical ban on TICs, his information is not current. I am a volunteer counselor with the Housing Rights Committee and have met with other concerned citizens and with Chris [Daly] himself to discuss the points of the legislation. Needless to say I am more current on the new TIC legislation than is Mr. Capko. Supervisor Daly's proposed legislation would not ban TICs but rather regulate the number of apartments that can be converted to TICs on a yearly basis. The legislation also recommends the cap on TICs be raised from 200 to 300 with the additional 100 being slated for lower-middle income buyers. This will help promote true home ownership for all people not just the elite.

Another myth that needs to be dispelled is that this legislation will increase the number of Ellis Act evictions. This is highly unlikely and the statistics prove this. Most apartment buildings where the Ellis Act was used, the building was then sold as a TIC.

And last, but not least, this is not Proposition N! This legislation is not retroactive. This legislation will allow approximately 2,000 owners of TICs to directly convert to condos. This legislation will give tenants the first right of refusal when their building goes up for sale, and once and for all, this legislation is not anti-gay. Frankly, I am so tired of the gay community exploiting this as a gay issue and all the while they are displacing their gay brothers and sisters through evictions. The bottom line, if you are a middle to lower income renter or a current TIC owner, this legislation is good news. It helps promote true affordable home ownership and protects tenants.

Vince Pietromartire  
San Francisco

## Goings on in City Hall

Many in our community hope the new Board of Supervisors, led by our own Tom Ammiano, will rescue city government from the ineptitude and folly that now characterize it. They may be in for a big surprise. Here are some things I witnessed at a recent board meeting:

Supervisor Chris Daly bitterly condemned a proposed board commendation because the recipient is opposed to affirmative action. This is a board that has only one black member and one Asian member.

The board suspended its regular business schedule so all the members could give long, rhetorical speeches about the importance of women in American life. This is a board that has only one woman member.

San Francisco has legions of homeless; Muni is still a joke; the streets are filthy; and the cost of housing has become astronomical. At the initiative of Supervisor Matt Gonzalez, the board limited its entire public comment period to the question of how the library should collect overdue book fines.

In the public comment period, I had hoped to challenge the qualifications of one of the mayor's appointees to a city commission. But there was no time for that. Instead, the board had a debate about the qualifications of a member of the U.S. Cabinet in Washington, D.C.

See anything wrong with this picture?

Arthur Evans  
San Francisco

## Get over it

As a gay man living in the Castro, I feel compelled to respond to David Alexander Nahmod's letter printed in the March 15 issue of the *B.A.R.*

Mr. Nahmod states: "... what makes gay men in the Castro think that having sex in public is no different than walking down the street." I am a gay man who lives in the Castro and I object to the stereotypical generalization that all gay men in the Castro are sex obsessed. I hope Mr. Nahmod stops projecting his self loathing beliefs before moving back to San Francisco.

Am I the only one growing tired of reading letters about sexual activity, be it in the steam room or someone who is still complaining about being groped 11 years ago? Is it appropriate? Of course not, but must we keep writing about it and printing it in the *B.A.R.*?

Mark Frizzell  
San Francisco

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### Listened to lyrics

This past week, I actually sat down and listened to Eminem's *Marshall Mathers LP*. Did anyone ever sit down and listen to his rap? I think the mass hysteria toward Eminem constitutes contempt prior to examination.

It's quite easy to identify lyrics out of context and parade such lyrics as proof of the danger and homophobia of Eminem. But in context and in totality, he is surely not the homophobe that he is painted. Some of Eminem's lyrics are completely vile; some hilarious; some misogynistic. However, the entirety of his lyrics are infused with powerful societal commentary. I was surprised to find an artist with something actually meaningful to say.

Like everyone else, prior to listening to him, I could not understand how such a man as Eminem could be lauded by the music industry. Now I recognize him as having a particular depth and honesty to his music this is quite unparalleled.

You can depend on the PC police at GLAAD if you want. Or you can actually listen to Eminem and draw your own conclusions. Elton John was quoted as saying that he liked Eminem's music. Unlike the hysterical masses, he actually listened to Eminem first. But why come to your own conclusions when GLAAD and others can do your thinking for you?

Marty Courson  
San Francisco

### The best of the best

My nomination as a grand marshal for the Pride Parade came as an unsolicited surprise and tremendous honor. Although I have great pride in the accomplishments I helped shepherd these last few years, they pale in comparison to the list of achievements of the other nominees for grand marshal. All are distinguished contributors to our community and each would be a deserving choice for this honor. The fact that there are five transgender nominees also speaks volumes for this year's event and the unprecedented progress of the trans community.

I would like to point out though, one nominee who stands out in particular for his work on behalf of lesbian, gay, bi, and trans people everywhere ... Supervisor Mark Leno. His support for the transgender community, the gay youth shelter, the medical cannabis community, maintaining the integrity of our neighborhoods, affordable housing, the environment and the No on Knight campaign is just a sampling of his work. He is a visible advocate for all people of this city and a tireless champion to whom the disenfranchised can always turn. Mark Leno is the embodiment of the spirit of Pride and, for one, will cast my vote for him for grand marshal of this year's parade. I encourage everyone to do the same.

Theresa Sparks  
San Francisco

### Tired of Tom's retorts

Tom Ammiano has a viciously-laden, bitterly bratty attitude at board meetings. Anybody who dares to disagree with Ammiano is malignantly attacked by his childish retorts. Ammiano must stop his decades-old adolescent tantrums, and act like a responsible adult, given the reality of his present position as president of the Board of Supervisors.

William Arbones  
San Francisco

### GMC involved in community

I wanted to write and thank "Grace Period" for the wonderful article in the February 15 B.A.R. about the Team SF event at Harvey's ["Fit fete," *Sports Complex*]. I was particularly pleased that you were able to include mention of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. I was also delighted that you were able to quote my Australian twang with such accuracy.

This season we have launched a new outreach program specifically designed to make SFGMC more accessible to the community at large, and your article will, I am certain, help us enormously in our endeavor. As a nonprofit arts organization, we welcome the support or writers and journalists such as you, and we thank you most sincerely.

Dr. Kathleen McGuire, Artistic Director  
San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus

### Waiting for parity in TV land

I was glad to read in your interview with Jason Bateman ["Kiss us Jason," March 15] that Warren, the gay roommate on *Some of My Best Friends*, will have a "personal life." Danny, the straight roommate, was naked in bed with a friend by the third episode. I am hoping for parity.

Adam York  
Oakland, California

### An intellectual insult

Since I proudly wear my liberalism on my sleeve, it's a bit of a stretch for me to empathize with Dale Carpenter ["Gay Cuba Libre" *OutRight*, March 8]. But the ranting of Peter Anastos [*Mailstrom*, March 22] toward Carpenter about Reinaldo Arenas and the film *Before Night Falls*, is an intellectual insult.

Anastos disapproves of those who "focus on past errors while ignoring recent positive changes" for gays and lesbians in Cuba. Bully for the Cubans and their "changes," but those changes weren't around when Arenas — an original supporter of Castro — was castigated for his sexual orientation.

There are a lot of reasons to joust with Carpenter about that weird phenomenon known as gay conservatism. I get the feeling that Cuba's poverty and illiteracy in 1959 probably were unimportant afterthoughts for him. However, Anastos wants to sweep Castro's homophobia under the carpet. That's just as insidious as the actions of revisionist historians who hope we forget that Ronald Reagan ignored AIDS while our friends died because the years have passed and he now has Alzheimer's.

Those of us who love real freedom know it is wrong to forget.

Will Snyder  
San Francisco

### Support Wachs in L.A.

On April 10 Los Angeles voters will elect a new mayor. More than a dozen candidates are in the race, but only one stands out as a true friend of the gay and lesbian community.

I have known Joel Wachs for nearly 30 years. I was a constituent of his in the early 1970s when his career as a city councilman was getting started. As the decades have passed, I have watched him consistently support issues and initiate programs that benefit not just the gay community, but all minority groups.

In 1978 the City Council passed the law he wrote prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. Six years later his law prohibiting discrimination against people with AIDS was passed, the first law of its kind in our country.

I am, therefore, urging readers of the *Bay Area Reporter* to contribute to Joel's campaign — not just because we could make him the first openly gay mayor of a major American city, but because he is a truly good man.

You may ask, "Why should I contribute to Joel's campaign when I live in the Bay Area?" The answer is because small cities and towns take their cue from the actions of big cities. Do you think cities and towns in various Bay Area counties that have adopted laws protecting gays and AIDS patients would have done so had Los Angeles and San Francisco not done so first? The same goes for domestic partner benefits. It started in the big cities and is now working its way down to the smallest villages. And it's people like Joel who bring about these changes.

Now is the time to show our gratitude for the past and encouragement for the future.

Please make checks payable to "Joel Wachs for Mayor." The address is 512 N. Larchmont Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90004. There is a legal limitation of \$1,000 per individual and donations of up to \$500 will be matched by Los Angeles' matching funds program.

For more information, see Joel's Web site at [www.wachsformayor.com](http://www.wachsformayor.com).

Hal Campbell  
Petaluma, California

### When Dubya dubs

This temporary incumbent isn't the only White House resident given to inventing nicknames, welcome or not, for others.

Consider "Silent Cal" Coolidge, as remembered by Bob Dole: "practical joker, Coolidge bestowed nicknames on White House staffers. A veteran doorman became 'The Mink,' while butler Thomas Rouch was christened 'Bug.'" (-B.D., *Great Presidential Wit*, 2001; p. 74)

Some cultures believe power to name a person gives power to control — in their view, to denominate is to dominate.

In certain cultures, a person's true name is kept secret, to prevent victimization. To the world, he or she is commonly known by a pseudonym, or a nickname.

In Britain, the monarch gives titles of nobility, which magnify recipients. Here, our court-appointed master dubs associates with titles of familiarity, which often diminish.

Contrarily, when the incumbent was a mere politician, many mainstream journalists called him "Dubya" and "Shrub." A few weeks of power have almost erased those words. In Melanesian and Polynesian thought, his newly-received "mana" makes him tabu. Few, save brave Molly Ivins, would now dare to nick His Name.

Tortuga Bi Liberty  
San Francisco



## POLITICS

# Energy crisis: Who's to blame?

by Wayne Friday

Governor Gray Davis is certainly right when he reminds Californians that it was his Republican predecessor, **Pete Wilson**, who guided the state's failed energy restructuring back in 1996 and that it was none of Davis's doing.

The Democratic governor clearly inherited the disastrously flawed deregulation scheme from the Republican governor, helped along, to be sure, by a state Legislature that blindly and unanimously voted for the restructuring program in 1996. But who is responsible for the current energy crisis was never really the question; as to what must be done now, well, that is another question.

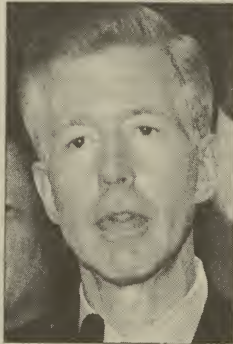
For nearly a year it has been clear that if the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission didn't cap the wholesale prices, retail prices would have to go up. The only question now is when and by how much. It has been nine months since the first warning signals went out after energy retail prices shot up markedly in the San Diego area.

If California had encouraged the utilities to enter into long-term contracts last year before the energy marketers had already sold much of what was available for this summer, the utilities could have obtained prices far below what the state now is forced to pay. Further, if the California Public Utilities Commission (whose members are appointed by the governor) had instituted real-time metering for large energy consumers that reflected actual energy costs, and thus drive down peak-hour demand, the prices would have been even lower.

Much of what the state has done recently such as the move to buy transmission lines, the purchase of power under excessively long contracts, and its decision to issue bonds, is too little, too late. We now learn that the state's power purchases for Southern California Edison and PG&E could cost \$23 billion by the end of next year, almost surely leaving customers paying at least 50 percent more for electricity. It is the fear of rising prices for consumers that has the politicians – the governor and the Legislature – terrified of doing anything that will anger the rate payers.

Governor Davis himself said recently that if he wanted to raise electricity rates he "could have fixed California's energy mess in 20 minutes." Probably not a wise thing for any politician to have said, since, as sure as the sun comes up in the east, electricity rates are headed for yet another increase very soon.

When Davis and the Legislature approved legislation authorizing the state's power purchases, they projected they would need \$10 billion in revenue bonds to buy power for the two utilities over a decade and these bonds must be repaid by the utilities' customers over the next few years. Davis has repeatedly said that he is confident the state's power crisis can be resolved without further



Governor Gray Davis

rate hikes, but sources close to the governor were reportedly telling some lawmakers this week that the state's power crisis cannot possibly be resolved without further rate hikes, possibly as high as 50 percent.

That increase likely will be on top of the 9 percent to 15 percent increase the PUC approved in January, as well as an additional 10 percent increase already scheduled for next year. Make no mistake about

it, the cost of electricity in California is going to go up again. The question is how much and how soon. The political fallout? Well, consumer advocate **Harvey Rosenfeld** of the Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights is promising a "rebellion at the ballot box" in 2002 if rates rise. There are many who say that Governor Davis and the Legislature are guilty of inaction on the current crisis. I think Davis, though perhaps a bit late at the switch, has at least tried to find the solution. What California voters think when the 2002 election rolls around is yet another question.

## Politics and people

We should hardly be surprised, but reports from more than one major news outlet this past week claim that the new Bush administration is making appointments daily that show an ideological turn to the far right that surpasses even that of **Ronald Reagan**. Those watching **George W. Bush's** appointments, including the obviously pleased members of the far right, are now openly commenting on the conservative bent of the new Bush White House. Indeed, even **Ralph Neas**, the president of People for the American Way, commented last week that "across the board, it's obvious that the right wing is in control, and it's a right-wing agenda that's being implemented." **Paul Weyrich**, a prominent conservative, also says "this administration is shaping up to be the best; as soon as they got in, they started taking notice – this is something I've never experienced before." **Michael Horowitz**, a veteran conservative of the Reagan White House, now with the ultraconservative Hudson Institute, concurred. "In many respects, this Bush White House did even better than the Reagan administration," Horowitz says. Bush's collection of appointed conservatives, those closely identified with moral, reli-

gious or small-government causes, is wide-ranging and includes, of course, Attorney General **John Ashcroft**; the Cuban-born **Otto Reich**, active in Reagan's anti-Sandinista efforts in the 1980s, who will head the State Department's Latin American operation; Christian activist **Kay James**, former dean of the Robertson School of Government at **Pat Robertson's** Regent University, who heads the Office of Personnel Management; and **Theodore Olson**, who served on the board of the notoriously far-right **Richard Mellon Scaife**-funded *American Spectator*, and who also once argued a pivotal Supreme Court case against affirmative action, as well as the *Bush v. Gore* case before the Supreme Court. Olson was tapped to be solicitor general.

But, hey, wasn't it the Green Party boy, **Ralph Nader**, who repeatedly said there wasn't a bit of difference between **George W. Bush** and **Al Gore** throughout the campaign? Nader delivered Florida, New Hampshire, and the White House into the hands of Bush and his right-wing friends who now control 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

The *Los Angeles Times* published what is essentially a dual endorsement this week of City Attorney **James Hahn** and former Assembly Speaker **Antonio Villaraigosa** in the April 10 mayoral race in that city; gay and lesbian activists there will no doubt get behind Villaraigosa if these two make it into a runoff.

Governor Davis got a huge public relations boost last week while traveling the state with **Vicente Fox**, the immensely popular new president of Mexico. Fox and Davis drew huge crowds everywhere they went during the two-day visit and the fact that the new Mexican president made California his first official U.S. stop in his new presidency rather than Washington, D.C. or Texas reportedly didn't go unnoticed by the White House either, as **Dubya** dispatched first lady **Laura Bush** to Southern California last week to make an appearance with Fox.

Back to the energy crisis: I've always thought Senator **Dianne Feinstein** was probably the wisest of any of our California representatives in Washington and the former San Francisco mayor was withholding no punches this week as she bluntly accused the Bush administration of playing politics with the state's power emergency. Hammering the Bush White House for refusing to lend a hand to California, Feinstein, suggesting politics was the motive, said: "Because of the kind of recalcitrance and the fact that this is a predominantly Democratic state, even somebody like me that constantly works across partisan lines is beginning to wonder if this isn't an unnecessary barbed stick at California because of that; otherwise, why wouldn't there be the attitude from the White House of, 'Let me see what we can do to help; we've got an open mind.' I don't believe anybody in that [Bush] administration is an expert on California, so why be so sure there's only one way to solve a problem?" Feinstein said she personally wrote to Bush back in January seeking a meeting on the energy situation in California but has yet to receive a re-

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# Who was Selma Lagerlof?

by Rawley Grau

March 16, 1940 (61 years ago this month): The Nobel Prize-winning novelist Selma Lagerlof dies on her estate in Sweden.

During her lifetime, Selma Lagerlof was one of the world's most celebrated writers. Still revered in her native Sweden, she was the first woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature and the author of a beloved children's book. Contemporary biographers noted the unmarried writer's "noble friendships" with women, but it was not until Lagerlof's letters were unsealed in 1991—51 years after her death, as she had stipulated—that the lesbian nature of these relationships came to light.

Lagerlof was born November 20, 1858, in the province of Varmland in west-central Sweden. Her father, a retired lieutenant, struggled to maintain the family estate, called Marbacka. But times were hard, and he eventually he took to drinking.

Lagerlof was raised on the folk tales and legends of Varmland, and these, along with the Nordic sagas she loved, would later give her work its distinctive mythic dimension. The girl dreamed of becoming a writer and as a teenager would read her poems at weddings and other occasions.

It was at such an event in 1880 that she met the Swedish feminist Eva Fryxell, who recognized the young woman's talent and urged her to seek a formal education. Lagerlof moved to Stockholm and entered the Higher Teacher's College for Women. Her life in the capital, with its vibrant cultural life, was a time of "awakening, growth, and rapid maturation," she later said.

Soon after her father's death in 1885, Lagerlof accepted a teaching position at a girls' school in a southern coastal town. When Marbacka had to be sold to pay creditors, sorrow over this loss spurred Lagerlof to write her first book, *Gosta Berling's Saga*, based on the Varmland tales she heard as a child. Published in 1891, it initially went unnoticed. But after the influential Danish critic Georg Brandes gave the novel a glowing review, Lagerlof's literary reputation was secured throughout Scandinavia.

A short-story collection soon followed, and in 1895, Lagerlof received a travel stipend from Sweden's King Oscar II that allowed her to quit teaching. Lagerlof spent several months in Central Europe and

Italy, accompanied by Sophie Salomon Elkan, a fellow novelist she had met the year before. Beautiful, sophisticated, and spirited, Elkan was a widow who came from a wealthy Jewish family. From Lagerlof's letters, it appears the relationship was both passionate and complex: while Lagerlof evidently struggled over her sexual feelings for her friend, Elkan chose to keep the relationship platonic. Still, there remained a deep love between the women, who made several trips abroad together and often stayed in each other's homes.

After her return from Italy, Lagerlof moved to central Sweden to be closer to her sister. There the writer learned about a group of local peasants who had recently emigrated to Palestine to wait for Christ's return. Their story became the basis for

*Jerusalem* (1901-1902). A moving portrayal of religious mania and divided families, the epic novel cemented Lagerlof's reputation as a writer of the first rank and made her internationally famous.

In 1902, Lagerlof met the schoolteacher Valborg Olander; their letters reveal that the two women became lovers. The relationship with Olander apparently incited jealousy in Elkan, who wrote Lagerlof: "You're not choosing Valborg over me, are you?" Olander would serve as Lagerlof's personal assistant and secretary for the next four decades.

Around this time, Lagerlof received a commission to write a children's book about Swedish geography. The result was *The Wonderful Adventures of Nils* (1906-1907), featuring an ill-tempered boy who is magically changed into a thumb-sized imp; he flies with a flock of wild geese from the southern tip of Sweden to Lapland and back. Hugely successful both in Sweden and abroad, *Nils* is still read by children throughout the world.

Throughout these years, Lagerlof published several short novels and story collections, often weaving a fantastic element into her realistic narrative. In 1909, she became the first woman—and the first Swede—to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature; five years later, she became the first woman to be elected to the prestigious Swedish Academy.

Although Lagerlof's work avoids explicit lesbian themes, it generally features confident, commanding female characters (even in *Nils*, the leader of the wild geese is female), and the author's sympathies are clearly with those who follow their true natures despite social convention. One contemporary critic noted with surprise

that Lagerlof should have "so little condemnation for what is generally called illicit love," especially since her own life "has never been touched by a breath of gossip, let alone scandal."

With the help of the Nobel Prize money, Lagerlof was able to buy back her family's Varmland estate. From there she continued to write novels, stories, and memoirs, and became a prominent spokesperson for pacifism and women's suffrage. In her later years, Marbacka became something of a pilgrimage site for devoted readers, including, in 1938, an awestruck Greta Garbo.

Lagerlof died on March 16, 1940, at the age of 81, three years before Olander, with whom she had remained close. Today, Marbacka is a public museum devoted to Lagerlof's life and work. Along with a memorial room to Sophie Elkan, which Lagerlof had set up after Elkan's death in 1921, there is also a room devoted to Olander. But the full complexity of Lagerlof's relationships with these and other women is only beginning to be explored. ▼

Rawley Grau has won four Vice Versa Awards for his writing on gay and lesbian culture. He can be reached at [GayNestor@aol.com](mailto:GayNestor@aol.com). For more Past Out, visit [www.planetout.com](http://www.planetout.com).

## Suggested reading

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## Our Man Friday

◀ previous page

sponse.

Look for state Senator **Bruce McPherson** (R-Santa Cruz), one of only 14 GOP members of the 40-member state Senate, to become the Republican nominee against Lieutenant Governor **Cruz Bustamante** next year.

And California Democrats will make a decided change of location when they meet in heavily Republican Orange County later this

week (March 30 - April 1) for their annual state convention. More than 2,000 delegates will meet at the Anaheim Convention Center and main speakers will include House Minority Leader **Richard Gephardt** and new Democratic National Committee chair **Terry McAuliffe**.

In Oakland, Mayor **Jerry Brown**, adopting a new tough guy persona, recently announced he will run for another term next year. Brown is a shoo-in for re-election, though some political writers have suggested that Brown

has turned from "Governor Moonbeam" into "Mayor Make My Day" as he continues his crackdown on crime and appears to be adopting some of New York City Mayor **Rudy Guiliani**'s tactics. Hey, it appears to be working as most Oaklanders reportedly like Brown, although a band of protesters greeted him after he filed the notice of intent to seek re-election. Some close to the former governor-turned-mayor will privately tell you that "Rambo" Jerry is determined to make yet

next page ▶



# Estate tax repeal plan is bad news

by Paula Martinac

The Bush tax cut plan currently before the Senate has received ecstatic support from the gay right. In particular, the Log Cabin Republicans would like lesbians and gay men to believe that repeal of the estate tax is in our community's best interest. But the truth is, repealing this tax will benefit a wealthy minority of us while gravely endangering the ability of our organizations to raise much-needed donor dollars.

The unfairness of the estate tax to lesbian and gay relationships has been a frequent complaint in our community. While heterosexual widows and widowers can inherit

their spouses' estates tax-free, the surviving partner in a same-sex relationship often surrenders half of the deceased partner's estate to the government.

Estate-tax discrimination is a slap in the face to the committed relationships of wealthy lesbians and gay men. Here's a typical example: After a friend of mine watched his lover deteriorate and die of AIDS, he had to deal with hostile "in-laws" who did everything from excluding him from the shiva (the Jewish mourning period) to threatening to contest the will. To add insult to injury, my friend had to write a fat check to a government that had denied him the right to marry, turning over 55 percent of what his longtime partner left him from a lucrative career as a real-estate attorney.

The answer to this blatant injustice, the gay right says, is simple: Repeal the estate tax. "[That's] one of the very few things gays and lesbians can do to balance out the inequities that currently exist," Kevin Ivers, director of public affairs for LCR, told reporter Michael Triplett. In a recent article for the Gay Financial Network (gfn.com), Triplett suggested that lesbians and gay men would be "major beneficiaries" of estate-tax repeal, and reported that LCR has made it a top priority.

The first and most obvious problem with this "solution" is that it's misleading. Only estates of more than \$675,000 are taxed, although proponents of the repeal would like the middle and working classes to believe otherwise. That's undoubtedly why we often hear about the "death tax" instead of the privileged-sounding "estate tax." In fact, the tax affects only about 6 of every 10,000 people who die, and most, if not all, of those concerned have already reaped benefits from the many tax breaks and loopholes geared to the rich.

In addition, the minimum size of the estates affected will inch higher each year and hit \$1 million in 2006. There is also a Democratic compromise on the table in Congress to raise the exclusion rate to a generous \$3 or \$4 million, protecting small and family businesses without incurring a loss of billions of dollars in estate-tax revenue that would surely come out of social programs, not military spending or other programs.

Given all the facts about the estate tax, lesbians and gay men would hardly be "major beneficiaries" of a complete repeal, unless you believe the flawed marketing research that claims we're so much wealthier than straight Americans. Certainly, a small

percentage of us (like a small percent-

age of straight people) would benefit from repeal and be able to preserve our inherited wealth. But at the same time, our community could also suffer big losses.

That's because the second problem with repealing the estate tax is its potentially detrimental effect on charitable donations. Right now, many affluent people make sizable bequests to charity in order to bypass the estate tax. But if the tax is repealed and there's no financial incentive to make such large donations, nonprofit groups may lose billions of dollars each year.

Because bequests have been so important to the growth of lesbian and gay social service organizations in the age of AIDS, the potential loss or reduction of these donations is a grave prospect. Bush intends to funnel tax dollars to "faith-based initiatives" for the delivery of social services. If charitable giving to gay organizations falls off and religious groups with less-than-enlightened views of gay people become the primary providers of social services, the results for our community could be devastating. Still, some gay groups may be afraid to speak out against the repeal and alienate the donors and board members so vital to their fundraising programs.

In a bold recent move, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force became the first queer organization to join Fair Taxes for All, a progressive coalition opposed to Bush's tax package. The Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Educators Network, Gay Men's Health Crisis, and Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League have also joined the list.

We need more nonprofits and also wealthy donors of conscience to voice objection to complete repeal of the estate tax. Bill Gates Sr. has suggested forming a group called "Millionaires for the Estate Tax." It would be great if some celebrity philanthropists from our

own community, like David Gefen and Martina Navratilova, would take up the challenge and show that lesbians and gay men can lead the way on this very important issue. ▼

Paula Martinac is the author of seven books. She can be reached care of this publication or at [LNcolumn@aol.com](mailto:LNcolumn@aol.com).



## Lesbian Notions

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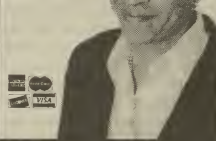
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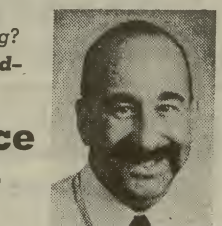


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## Our Man Friday

◀ previous page

another run for the White House before ever retiring from politics.

At its regular monthly meeting tonight (Thursday, March 29) the Log Cabin Republican Club of S.F. will present a behind-the-scenes look at state legislative actions that will affect the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. The forum will include Jean Har-

ris, executive director of the California Alliance for Pride and Equality; Bonita Barnes, representing a consortium of AIDS organizations; and Dana Van Gorder of the S.F. AIDS Foundation. The event will be held starting at 6 p.m. in the Fireside Room of the Lutheran Center, 1101 O'Farrell and will be moderated by longtime political consultant and Log Cabin official Chris Bowman.

And how was your week? ▼



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# Mbeki's AIDS panel may make recommendation

by S. Predrag

**S**outh African President Thabo Mbeki's panel of scientists on HIV/AIDS may recommend "a series of immediately doable epidemiological studies be undertaken to prove or disprove once and for all that HIV causes AIDS."

The panel was mandated last April by Mbeki's cabinet; 33 mainstream and dissident scientists were invited to South Africa to discuss HIV and AIDS.

The panel's final report, which was due by December 31, has not yet been released. There is no official explanation for the delay except that the report is "still being edited."

The South African media, however, quoting reliable sources, claims that both groups of scientists are expected to be unhappy with the final report.

Dr. David Rasnick, Professor Sam Mhlongo, and Professor Charles Geshkter indicated last week that they had asked for permission to write a minority report disagreeing with the final report.

These dissidents say that they will challenge the panel's final report if it cites the arguments of mainstream scientists that there is a link between HIV and AIDS.

"If the final report is anything like the draft version, we have asked the government for permission to write a minority report that reflects our views," said Rasnick.

They also accused mainstream scientists of "sabotaging Mbeki's panel all along by boycotting the panel's Internet discussions and signing the Durban Declaration."

Still, it seems that the mainstream scientists, those who firmly believe that HIV causes AIDS, may also be unhappy with the final report.



Dr. David Rasnick

According to an unofficial version published in the South African weekly newspaper, the *Sunday Independent*, in the chapter on "HIV tests and their accuracy," the report states that, "Dr. Rasnick, supported by Professor Mhlongo, recommended that the South African government should consider terminating HIV testing of blood banks and general surveillance since the results of all tests are unreliable and non-specific, and hence give wrong information."

It appears that the dissident scientists believe that AIDS would disappear if all HIV testing were banned, which prompted Tony Leon, leader of the opposition Democratic Alliance, to call on President Mbeki to sack Rasnick from his panel for referring to HIV as a "harmless virus."

Last year, Mbeki wrote to President Clinton, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and some other heads of state that the assumption of a causal link between HIV and AIDS by mainstream doctors and the media amounted to "intellectual intimi-

dation and terrorism."

He emphasized that the alleged link required further investigation.

## Poll numbers down

In the meantime, Mbeki's ties to the AIDS dissidents have seriously harmed his credibility and popularity.

The *Business Day*, an influential South African daily, has just published a survey in which almost half of the adult population rated Mbeki's performance "poor" to "very poor."

The survey, conducted through market research house AC Nielsen's Multibus subscription research service, used an area-stratified probability sample of 2,479 households encompassing all race and income groups. The findings are representative of 13.7 million, or 92 percent of all urban adult South Africans.

More than half disagree with Mbeki's view that HIV does not cause AIDS. Six percent agreed completely with him, 4 percent agreed strongly, 8 percent agreed "a little," a quarter felt they did not know enough to form an opinion, while 4 percent said they did not believe news reports about the issue.

The biggest disagreement with Mbeki's handling of the AIDS crisis comes from people aged between 16 and 24 (56 percent), compared to 45 percent of those older than 50.

The survey also showed that more than a third of people without access to television expressed uncertainty about the HIV/AIDS issue, compared to a quarter of those with access to TV.

Those without TV access also were more likely to agree with the president than those able to follow debates and news broadcasts on television. ▼

## Namibia president criticized by human rights groups over anti-gay statements

by S. Predrag

**H**uman rights organizations last week sharply criticized Namibia President Sam Nujoma, who called on his police to "arrest, imprison, and deport" any homosexuals and lesbians found in this African country.

Addressing students at the University of Namibia in Windhoek, the fired-up president declared, "The Republic of Namibia does not allow homosexuality, lesbianism here."

"Police are ordered to arrest and deport [homosexuals] and imprison [them] too," Nujoma threatened publicly.

The Rainbow Project Coalition, which is campaigning for homosexual equality in Namibia, immediately reacted by asking President Nujoma to clarify which of the country's laws allowed gays and lesbians to be prosecuted.

The organization's coordinator, Ian Swartz, told journalists that, "Nowhere does our constitution state that gay and lesbian people are not members of the human family and therefore do not enjoy the same rights as all other citizens."

Swartz admitted that homo-

sexuals in Namibia were frightened by Nujoma's speech, but he asked, "We would also like to know whether the president has made arrangements with the prison authorities to accommodate some 10 percent of the population."

The Namibian Society for Human Rights labeled Nujoma's latest homophobic attack as "dangerous." In its statement, the society warned that "violent words from a popular leader may lead to violence against innocent citizens."

Reminding Nujoma and his government that Namibia became independent just 11 years ago, after decades of apartheid, the NSHR said that, "In a country that has emerged from the horrors of apartheid, it should not be such a leap in logic to recognize that homophobia is a form of the same cancer as racism."

The Legal Assistance Center pointed out that Namibia does not have any laws that can be used to detain and deport sexual minorities from the country as threatened by Nujoma.

The president's interpretation of the constitutional rights of gays and lesbians is "obviously erroneous since the Namibian Constitution protects the rights and dig-

nity of all persons in Namibia," LAC director Clement Daniels said in a media release.

Describing Nujoma's remarks as "unfortunate and irresponsible," Daniels said that, "Our constitution protects the above rights of all persons and all persons are equal before the law, regardless of their sexual orientation."

This is not the first time that Nujoma has attacked homosexuals, whom he describes as the results of "foreign influence and decadence." This is, however, the first time the Namibian president has called for their arrest, imprisonment, and deportation.

Nujoma's Home Affairs minister, Jerry Ekandjo, is on record as saying last year that police should "eliminate gays and lesbians from the face of Namibia."

Addressing newly-graduated police officers, Ekandjo said that, "Even if gays and lesbians had a gay dog they would murder it."

Later on, official sources "clarified" that Ekandjo was merely expressing his personal opinion.

There are no reports yet of police arrests or any deportations of gays and lesbians from Namibia, but the homosexual community in Namibia is still nervous, as are many human rights activists. ▼



# Washington and New York gay papers sold

by David Fraser

Following the fashion of corporate media mergers – although not quite on the scale of AOL-Time Warner – Washington, D.C.-based Window Media is acquiring two mainstays of the gay press, the *Washington Blade* and the *New York Blade News*.

The purchase, expected to be finalized on March 30, will create the world's largest lesbian/gay newspaper group, according to company officials. The media group will add about 200,000 weekly readers to the current holdings which also total more than 200,000 weekly.

Window Media owns its flagship Atlanta-based *Southern Voice*, the nation's largest queer newspaper, plus the *Houston Voice*, *Eclipse* magazine, and *SOVO*, a glossy lifestyle quarterly for Atlanta.

The media corporation has been closely tied to Window Communications, a queer-oriented strategic marketing and PR firm which officials said closed last year. A number migrated to Window Media.

Company officials said the acquisition will bring added resources and clout to the gay media. Critics warned about the downside of gay media concentration under a single roof and expressed concern over business-media overlaps and the possible quashing of independent voices.

Bill Dobbs, a New York-based lawyer and gay-rights activist, said the sale of the newspapers "raises serious questions about fewer people having power over gay media outlets."

In addition, Dobbs and Henry Scott, former president of *Out* magazine, expressed concern over what they see as cozy ties between this major gay/lesbian media outlet and public relations.

Window Media president William Waybourn, in a telephone interview that included editorial director Chris Crain, told the *Bay Area Reporter* he had severed all ties with Window Communications, a prominent gay and lesbian public relations and strategic marketing firm he had headed.

"If the PR firm is gone, is any principal [at Window Media] doing PR work? It still raises the concentration issue," Dobbs said.

Scott said he was not overly concerned about debate forums, but was worried about "even the appearance" of conflict of interest.

"We're fortunate in New York to have a second gay and lesbian paper, *Lesbian Gay New York*," he said. "Competition is a good thing. But I am concerned about outlets for issues that need to be discussed that might otherwise never see the light."

Washington's gay media has been dominated by the *Blade*.

## Window and window

Crain said flatly: "Window Communications closed its doors in May 2000."

Nonetheless, Window Media shows the strong imprint of Window Communications.



Waybourn has retained much of Window Communications' style and some personnel – not to mention its Web site. While not linked from the media site, it still pops up during an online search. Window Communications' site is still active and both share much look-and-feel, down to the logo and design.

Besides Waybourn, the PR site's list of managers includes Eric May. May, who was a senior associate at Window Communications, is corporate marketing manager at Window Media. His background in public relations includes work for pharmaceutical firms and in the broader health field.

Window Communications is listed on D.C. directory assistance; the number is the same as Window Media's contact number.

Crain, both editorial director and COO, is taking over as editorial director of the four gay newspapers and Window's other publications. Crain, an activist, journalist, and former attorney, founded Window Media in 1997 with Waybourn, who has played a major and controversial role in gay political activism, public relations, and consulting.

Waybourn has a long history of gay activism. He co-founded the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, the nation's largest gay and lesbian political action committee, and was also managing director of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. He helped found the StopDrLaura.com coalition aimed at the homophobic radio talk host, whose TV program is losing advertisers and shrinking ever later into the wee hours.

Window Communications' role as PR firm for United Airlines in the late 1990s raised hackles throughout the queer community. United had sued the city of San Francisco over its domestic partners requirements for contracting firms, including the airline, and hired Window to handle PR. Window later severed its relationship with United.

Crain, the editorial director, suggested that editorial staff changes would be incremental: "We're not planning any changes initially. Of course as always when one business acquires another, there will likely be some over time."

One major change is the new role of Lisa Keen, who became editor of the Washington paper in 1983 and has been executive editor of both *Blade* newspapers. "Lisa Keen is on a different status," Crain said. "She will not be full-time staff, but will be chief political correspondent, working out of Boston. She will also be doing other writing projects."

## Concentration?

Pressed about the question of media ownership concentration, Crain told the *B.A.R.*: "Some of the activists raise a valid question. I raised similar questions about the purchase of *Out* magazine" by Advocate owner Liberation Publications Inc. "*Out* was becoming like a carbon copy of the *Advocate*."

"Look," he added. "Every publication struggles with conflict of interest. I don't pretend it's all black and white. The question is,

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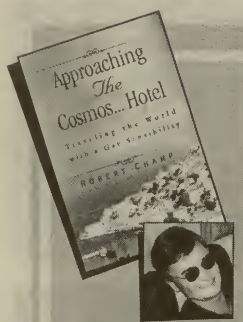
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# Frank talk about sex offered online

by David Fraser

From the street corners of Turk and Eddy to glitzy gay Web sites, the Stop AIDS Project has moved online ... without forgetting its roots.

The organization's mission to provide up-to-date information on HIV, AIDS, and sexually transmitted diseases has expanded dramatically with its new project to reach out and inform people.

Many are responding to the online effort, said Marcel Miranda, deputy program director at Stop AIDS. With the help of a \$150,000 grant from the San Francisco Department of Public Health's Fund for Innovative Initiatives, Stop AIDS hired Vincent Wright as Web outreach manager and got busy. They're training volunteers now.

"This work is so important," Miranda told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

"It's a counterpart to the other types of outreach we do. And it's a collaborative effort — we solicit input from the volunteers; they're our eyes and ears."

Under the screen name StopAIDSMM, Miranda joins sex chat rooms and waits for men to come to him.

"They read the personal profile, and then they might start to ask questions," Miranda said. "We respond, but only through private messages."

The dialogues are frank and to the point, and are drawing a growing audience. "We get inquiries from all over the country," said Miranda, who is often found aboard AOL and is focusing his efforts on the major LGBT site Gay.com. Both the *New York Times* and the *Advocate* have run stories on the program.

Wright said he works to avoid giving canned answers when he's online wearing his Stop AIDS hat. "It's about trust ... I talk like I'd talk to a guy on the street." Many conversations last through 15 minutes of fast typing.

"Prevention is so complex," Wright said. "We're starting to see spikes [in STDs] that show prevention is needed more and more."

### Top queries

Some questions recur: "We get

a lot of queries on how safe oral sex is, on HIV, on rimming, on sex between positive and negative persons. Probably the most frequently asked topic is HIV," Wright said.

"Now there's people asking about PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis)," a treatment that may help prevent HIV seroconversion. The treatment needs to be done within 72 hours of exposure, he added.

The Web-based outreach program grew out of Miranda's years of experience in bringing prevention and other education to high-risk populations, especially those on the street. He worked with Polk Street hustlers

warnings from city health officials that men were meeting virtually in chat rooms and then physically, often for high-risk sex.

Gay.com, as reported in the *B.A.R.* last week, recently dropped its dedicated barebacking chat room. Company officials said members were free to create their own rooms.

Research presented by the DPH at the International AIDS Conference in Durban last year revealed how more and more men have turned to the Internet to find sex partners. Among the findings, said James Nguyen, director of communications for Stop AIDS, was that gay and bi-

**Wright said he works to avoid giving canned answers when he's online wearing his Stop AIDS hat. "It's about trust ... I talk like I'd talk to a guy on the street." Many conversations last through 15 minutes of fast typing.**

and talked to their johns, always in an informational, non-judgmental way. Last year he figured the Internet was a ripe target for prevention information.

Stop AIDS has operated in San Francisco for 14 years, sending trained volunteers to places where gay and bisexual men gather, from Turk and Polk streets to SOMA bars and sex clubs.

"We put on our gaydar," Miranda said, grinning. "Our volunteers have highly trained senses." He noted that online chat rooms can be "very sexually charged — it's not so different from doing outreach on the street."

The program started in January with a goal of conducting 100 interviews per week. Wright said currently it engages around 60-75 men, with the numbers expected to rise as volunteers complete their training.


### Chat and chance

Expansion of the program onto the Internet came amid

sexual men who had been treated for STDs were more likely to report finding sexual partners over the Internet. Moreover, gay and bi men reported higher levels of "sexual risk behavior," specifically receptive anal sex, with Internet partners, as compared to non-Internet partners.

As part of their online outreach, and also as a publicity method, Stop AIDS is holding a series of 10 cyber forums lasting three hours each. The goal is to reach a total of 300 gay and bi men. The first was on barebacking; other forums are planned on online cruising, oral sex, and HIV-positive communities.

The first big publicity effort to kick off the online effort was DOT.CUM, one of two in-person social events during the contract year. Nguyen described it as a place where people known only by their screen names could meet in a structured, non-threatening environment where safe sex promotion messages, information, referrals, and free condoms and lubricant were available. ▼



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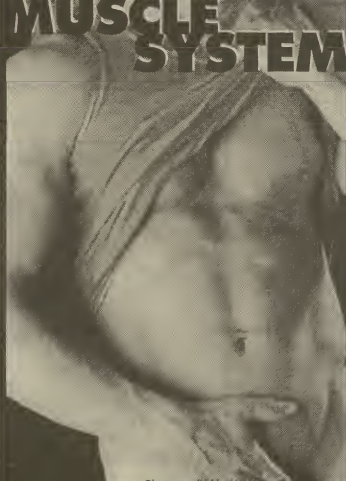
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## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Red ribbon

◀ page 1

feared speakers.

To the treatment advocacy group Survive AIDS, which unanimously rejected this proposal after learning about it, these plans were an "empty, hollow display," according to member Jeff Getty. Survive AIDS, although invited to the coalition meeting, did not attend, instead opting to host its own 20-year commemoration.

"At a time when AIDS services are being drastically cut, a giant red ribbon is a waste of money," said Getty, noting that promoters, engineers, and many others would have to be hired to pull off the feat. "If they can raise that kind of money for a ribbon, why can't they raise it for better services?"

Getty also questioned the effectiveness of the ribbon.

"What do they intend to accomplish, to get into the *Guinness Book of World Records*?" he said. "Once they get the attention they're after, what's the point? Is it to ask for money?"

Besides, said Getty, the red ribbon went out years ago, and to revive it now is insulting.

"You can buy a red ribbon in any Walgreens these days. The money behind red ribbons hasn't gone to AIDS in quite some time. It's a tired icon," he said.

Shriver, while acknowledging that he was aware of complaints from Survive AIDS, denied that a red ribbon or anything that would cost a substantial amount of money was ever part of the plan.

"That's not true," Shriver told the B.A.R. on Tuesday, March 27. "What is accurate is that whatever it is we do will be a way to visually remind the world that this city that responded first, and that we intend to keep fighting. We stand at precipice of ending the epidemic."

The ribbon, said Shriver, was an idea that "probably came from someone at the table when we were brainstorming. I assured [Survive AIDS] that this was not what we would be doing."

As of March 16, however, a full week after the ribbon idea was introduced, minutes indicate that Shriver was scheduled to meet

with Mayor Brown to iron out the details of the ribbon's unveiling.

And according to Tom Nolan of Project Open Hand, the ribbon was a serious contender even as recently as within the past few days.

"We had discussed various ways to fund it, and had decided it should not come from AIDS organizations but from elsewhere, and as far as I knew, a meeting was scheduled to propose it to the mayor," Nolan told the B.A.R. "The ribbon idea certainly provided a dramatic visual image. But once it became apparent that there was a controversy, I, and others, agreed that maybe we should pare it down a bit."

As it stands, therefore, all the reasons for ribbon-related secrecy and angst remain unclear. But according to Shriver, one thing is certain: marking the 20th anniversary of AIDS will be a very somber event.

"This is not something you mark with a lavish display," said Shriver. "It will be very simple, very stark, and will focus on volunteerism and the way this city has responded to AIDS." ▼

## Gay murderer

◀ page 1

their sexual choices.

"The case created an interesting situation," Cathy Renna, news media director at the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, told the *Bay Area Reporter*, noting the opening that was created for LGBT people to distance themselves from one of their own.

From the very beginning, said Renna, GLAAD condemned the crime for what it was, and urged the media not to inappropriately focus on sexual orientation. However, most of the outlets providing extensive coverage were conservative in nature, said Renna, because regional child abuse cases are largely ignored at the national level. The queer communities therefore faced a predicament: they could object to being lumped into categories with pedophiles and murderers; or they could insist that BDSM is not inherently evil, and that Brown, despite his admissions of having rough gay sex with a teenager, was not necessarily trying to kill the kid. Most, of course, chose the first option.

"The truth is, this is a crime that we openly condemn and that we find repulsive, and the two perpetrators should be prosecuted to the full extent of law," said Renna. "At the same time I don't think that we should in any way give any credence to the media that wants to use this case as a way to distribute misinformation about sexual orientation issues."

GLAAD, said Renna, has no

authority to discuss or debate issues around what constitutes consent. But even organizations that traditionally show outrage at biased SM coverage drew the line when it came to defending someone who openly engaged in such practices with a minor.

"We believe in safe, sane, and consensual activities. We do not think that children can consent to sex with adults," Melinda Chateauvert, public affairs director of the National Coalition for Sexual Freedom, told the B.A.R.

Chateauvert said that as teens become sexually active earlier, many states are recognizing a "more modern understanding of sexuality," and changing their statutory rape laws accordingly. Virginia, for instance, allows a three-year split between a consenting minor and an adult.

It was the statutory rape that influenced NCSF not to criticize the coverage of Brown and Carpenter, said Chateauvert, even though BDSM and homosexuality were consistently used to demonstrate how Dirkhising's death was a murder. In many states, a death that occurs during the commission of another felony is automatically considered a murder punishable by the death penalty.

NCSF will continue to monitor the right wing's coverage of BDSM and LGBT communities, and will urge groups like GLAAD and other more mainstream queer organizations to bring sex back into discussions and talk about "what it is we do," said Chateauvert.

flict of interest could threaten open debate.

Waybourn commented to the B.A.R.: "If you look at our existing publications, they're not cookie cutters."

"It's just Window Media now; it's been that way since last May when Window Communications closed its doors."

"There was an unfortunate similarity in names, with 20-20 hindsight. There have never been any connective tissues, other than myself, and there aren't now."

Waybourn, of course, might make a pretty tough tendon himself. But he said that his sole role is as president of Window Media, where he focuses on sales and marketing.

"Chris has complete editorial independence and integrity," Waybourn added. ▼

## Gay papers

◀ page 13

how to maintain the firewall." He said that as editor of *Southern Voice*, he disclosed Window Communications' clients.

"We're not buying out competitors, in a situation where there's no consumer choice. Editorially we can do a better job with our resources, with not all [publications] working on the same story. We'll do stories on a case by case basis."

"One thing that's important: we view the editorial and op-ed pages as a real 'town hall,' the more provocative the better."

Scott, who initiated an antitrust suit against the merger of PlanetOut and Gay.com earlier this year, warned in an interview that even the appearance of con-

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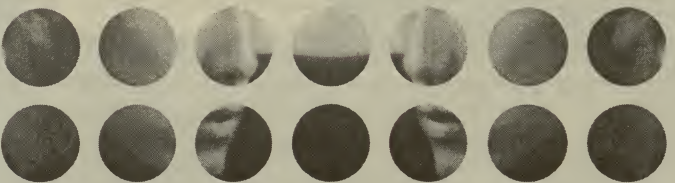
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# ASOs urged to run from city's planned AIDS anniversary

by Michael Lauro, Survive AIDS Writers Pool

On June 5, 1981, the Centers for Disease Control's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* published what would be the first report on the AIDS epidemic, based on Los Angeles cases of *Pneumocystis pneumonia*.

"I won't even bother to describe the mess of emotions I feel as we approach this dreadful anniversary. No doubt every long-term survivor and every longtime activist feels the same. I remember all my friends and lovers who died. I remember the street battles, the funerals, the bigotry, the betrayals, the courage. I remember it all," commented AIDS memorial quilt founder Cleve Jones from his home in Southern California.

And so it is for many of us — a mess of emotions as we approach this unsettling anniversary. Twenty years of dignity and courage in face of prejudice and death. Twenty years of hope and hyperbole.

Jones went on to add: "In a few weeks we'll all be remembering, as the nation and the world pauses — however briefly — to note the 20th year of the pandemic. How we choose to mark this tragic mile-



Cleve Jones

stone has been the subject of discussion around the country and observances are being planned by AIDS service organizations in every city. In my opinion, the last thing we need is a month of self-congratulatory black-tie galas, fundraisers for the AIDS bureaucracy, or sentimental ceremonies."

Tell that to a group of local AIDS service organizations led by the University of California, San Francisco's AIDS Research Institute along with the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Shanté, the National AIDS Memorial Grove, Project Inform, the Stop AIDS Project, and others including the organization Cleve himself founded, the Names Project.

Dubbed "Marking the Milestone: 20 Years of AIDS," these groups are currently crafting a three-day event positing a theme of "remembrance, renewal, and recommitment" that has many AIDS activists exasperated. This event comes only 16 days after the San Francisco AIDS Candlelight Memorial march held annually since 1983. Does San Francisco need two memorial events held within a few weeks? Why haven't the ARI folks reached out to the candlelight organizers or even considered consolidating these two events?

Individuals from several participating organizations like Project Open Hand and Project Inform have told us that although they have some reservations with aspects of the program, they may stay in the mix for, as at least one of these organizations emphasized, these groups are not being asked to contribute financially since the ARI organizers are footing the entire bill. Still, this does little to relieve activists' fears that the event is either a pretext to pique donor interest or as Cleve Jones admonishes, simply another "fundraiser for the AIDS bureaucracy."

There's more to indicate that this event in its current form is all show with little substance. The three-day media event culminates with the mayor unveiling a GIANT RED RIBBON AROUND THE DOME OF CITY HALL. Won't that make a pretty picture. Most AIDS activists have developed very ambivalent feelings about the use of red ribbons as a symbol. They view red ribbons as symbolic of words without action

and of the failure to recognize that HIV/AIDS is fundamentally as much a political crisis as a public health one. The organizers of this event should realize what a truly offensive image they are proposing. Has this community, your patients, and our work as activists meant so little to you?

The plans surrounding this anniversary event illustrate the misdirected priorities of our AIDS organizations. Millions of Africans are dying for lack of generic AIDS medications as the U.S. AIDS establishment remains largely silent about this global priority. One hopes that this silence is not related to the money these groups receive from the pharmaceutical industry. Once again, it is the activists who put their bodies on the line and in the streets who are successfully challenging the pharmaceutical lobby PHARMA and the U.S. government.

Here at home, rising rates of treatment failure, rising rates of new infections, side effects being

experienced by at least 50 percent of people with

HIV on medications, the decline of San Francisco General Hospital and the Department of Public Health as effective health

care delivery institutions, and people with HIV on disability or with

low incomes being forced out of San Francisco by rising rents are some of the issues these ASOs should be up in arms about.

There are some activists who believe that this event in particular should be buried in a deep grave with the likes of Jesse Helms and Ronald Reagan. Others, like Cleve Jones, believe that any proposed event would fail to do what is really needed to appropriately commemorate this anniversary and that: "We should cancel the cocktail parties and awards banquets and start the month of June in the streets of Washington, D.C. — screaming bloody murder."

This "milestone event" sorely sacrifices its renewal and recommitment themes by serving up show over substance. If this event must go on, it must do more to fulfill its thematic promise of remembrance, renewal, and commitment. Instead of hollow media events, our leaders standing in front of City Hall, like the mayor, could lead by example and raise the issue of African medical apartheid to the same level the city once took on apartheid itself. They could proclaim that until the pharmaceutical industry withdraws its objection to South Africa providing generic AIDS drugs for its citizens as Brazil does now, the city will divest its investments from the greedy pharmaceutical rat pack of 39 companies who are placing profits over lives. Let the AIDS establishment and the mayor lead by example and provide a fitting example of action to mark this anniversary.

Now that's a worthy tribute. Without these changes, ASOs should run from this event. Let us regain our sense of outrage, anger, and unwillingness to die quietly. Or at the very least, let's do something constructive. ▼

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Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. No poetry. We reserve the right to edit. If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death. Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

## Christian K. Anderson

January 1, 1951 —  
February 25, 2001



Chris left this life after a lengthy and brave struggle with AIDS complications. He was preceded in death by his father Kenneth, and is survived by his mother Cecilia, brother Lars, and sister Margot. He is also preceded in death by his long-time companion Bob Bellville. Chris graduated from UC San Diego in 1973 and worked as Manager of Information Services for United Leasing in San Francisco for many years. Reaching the age of 50 became such a goal that,

with the assistance of several friends, he left the hospital against medical advice to attend his birthday party this past New Year's Eve.

Chris was an avid square dancer since 1983, having served as Administrator of Western Star Dancers, remaining a member of Western Star and Midnight Squares. He was part of a close group of dancing friends who called themselves The Bradley Family. Known as Uncle Joe Jo Bradley, Chris is survived by Mama Jo, Suzie Jo, Janie Jo, Fannie Jo, and Blanche Jo. Several of his Bradley family preceded him in death. His entire Bradley and biological families were with him at the hospital, all at the same time, the day before he died.

He leaves behind many other dear friends, especially Carlos, Steve & Karl, Tim, Kelly, Jack, Dan & Francis, Carl & Jeff, Harry, Mike and Jim.

Interment of his ashes occurred

March 17 at Woodlawn Cemetery in Toledo, Iowa. A celebration of his life will be held in San Francisco, April 7, at 10 a.m. at Christ Church Lutheran, 1090 Quintara St. (between 19th and 20th Ave.). In lieu of flowers, donations are suggested to Batten Disease Support & Research Association, 120 Humphries Dr. Ste 2, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068.

## Albert Lee Little



Albert "Lee" Little departed this world on Saturday, March 24 after a valiant fight against AIDS. He was 37. Lee was born in Springfield, Missouri, and has been an active member of the San Francisco

gay community since 1997. Prior to moving here, Lee lived in Washington,

D.C. for six years.

Lee is survived by his father, Arthur Little, brothers Mark and Lance Shaeffer, sister Heidi Keller and by his adoring adopted family, "master" Bill, "daddies" Scott and Cliff, "wife" Starry, "sons" Cale and Michael, daughters Griffin and Sabine and many loving friends.

"Rosebud" was actively involved within the San Francisco Leather Community, Body Positive, and many other AIDS charities and organizations. After a successful twelve-year career as a travel agent in Washington, D.C., he moved to San Francisco and managed the Palace Court Apartments building. He was also proud to be one of the last employees of the Hayes Street Muscle Systems Gym.

A memorial gathering is planned for Saturday, March 31. For time and location information, please call Michael at (415) 292-7977. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the SF AIDS Foundation, 995 Market St. #200, San Francisco, CA 94103, or [www.sfaf.org](http://www.sfaf.org).

## Arkansas sodomy law ruled unconstitutional; Texas law upheld

by Liz Highleyman

Last Friday, March 23, a circuit court judge in Arkansas ruled that the state's sodomy law is unconstitutional because it discriminates against gays and lesbians. The law prohibits consensual sexual activity between people of the same sex, but not between people of opposite sexes. In 1975 the state repealed a sodomy law that banned oral and anal sex between both same-sex and opposite-sex partners, but two years later adopted the same-sex-only law.

Although no one has ever been prosecuted under the 14-year-old law, seven gay men and lesbians challenged the statute saying that they feared arrest and conviction, with the potential related harms of loss of employment and child custody. According to Ruth Harlow, legal director of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, which represented the plaintiffs, "The law hangs over their heads and treats them like second-class citizens." Violation of the law car-

ried a fine of \$1,000 and a jail sentence of up to one year.

The plaintiffs argued that the law violates their rights to privacy and equal protection under the law, fuels anti-gay sentiment, and does not achieve any important state interest. The state argued that the government did have an interest in criminalizing behavior that a majority of citizens find morally objectionable.

Pulaski County Circuit Judge David Bogard ruled in favor of the plaintiffs, saying that the state did have a right to legislate on issues involving morals, but that "homosexuality is not only a question of morals." He continued, "It is consistent with this state's constitution to hold that an adult's right to engage in consensual and non-commercial sexual activities in the privacy of that adult's home is a matter of intimate personal concern which is at the heart of the right to privacy in Arkansas."

Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas also have same-sex-only sodomy laws, while 13 states have laws that outlaw certain types of

sexual activity between both same-sex and opposite-sex partners.

A week before the Arkansas ruling, the 14th Circuit Court of Appeals voted 7-2 to uphold the sodomy law in Texas. The full court overturned a June ruling by three of its members that the law was unconstitutional because it prohibits sexual activity between same-sex partners that is permitted between opposite-sex partners. The Texas law has been in effect since 1860, but activity between opposite-sex partners was decriminalized in 1974.

The law was challenged after two Texas men were arrested for engaging in sodomy in one partner's home after police received a false report of an intruder. Harlow, who also argued the Texas case, said the men planned to appeal the recent ruling. According to Harlow, "The court's ruling failed to enforce the constitution's promise of equality" and allowed the government to "bash down the bedroom door" to criminalize consensual sex between same-sex partners. ▼

## Dog mauling

◀ page 3

much lately. Kendell said she's helping Smith with her plans to move out.

Smith's other attorney, Michael Cardoza, told the B.A.R. that he was "very pleased" with the indictments and he praised District Attorney Terence Hallinan for putting an experienced prosecutor, Assistant District Attorney Jim Hammer, on the case.

The arrests of Noel and Knoller topped off a bizarre day in the case.

In the afternoon, paramedics were called to the Hall of Justice after Knoller suffered what was described as a panic attack during her testimony before the grand jury. Her vital signs were checked but she was not taken to the hos-

pital. She later told reporters that she was overwhelmed when she had to recount the attack before the jurors. Knoller reiterated that she suffered injuries as she tried to restrain Bane, the male dog who instigated the attack. She brought her torn clothing to the grand jury proceeding as evidence of her struggle to prevent the attack.

Noel and Knoller told reporters they planned to see a client in Chico after Knoller's testimony. San Francisco police, who were apparently anticipating the indictments, followed the couple in an unmarked car. They were pulled over for speeding in Yolo County, nearly 80 miles northeast of San Francisco, by California Highway Patrol officers at the request of San Francisco police. Noel was cited and allowed to continue before the couple was arrested further north, in Corning.

When Knoller was arrested, she complained of chest pains and was treated and released from a hospital before being taken by police to the Tehama County jail.

At a press conference Tuesday night to announce the indictments, Hallinan said going the grand jury route helped expedite the case by avoiding a preliminary trial. After the couple is arraigned, he said the next step would be to set a trial date.

Hallinan had high praise for the 19 grand jury members and said he was confident that he could secure a conviction in the case. Hallinan was asked to respond to remarks by Noel that he would be voted out of office if he didn't get a conviction on the case.

"What can I say except that he's angry at me, and he's going to be a lot angrier when he goes to prison," said Hallinan. ▼



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# Spring flings

by Jim Provenzano

March came in like a lion, but went out like a dainty queen in a sun dress festooned with flower blossoms. Spring brings lots of sporty activities, and here are just a few.

## Aussie rules

Online registrations for the Sydney 2002 Gay Games have taken off with the first two weeks figures exceeding expectation. Gay Games VI organizers have received 1,231 registrations from 39 countries in the first two weeks of registration. That's almost 10 percent of potential participants.

"The registration process is an important step toward the delivery of the Games and these results

are particularly welcome this early," said Stuart Borrie, acting chief executive.

"We are very pleased with the results so far, especially the diverse places from where people are registering. It gives us a great level of

comfort that people already have Gay Games fever.

"Sydney is a wonderful place to have the Gay Games, a diverse and tolerant city with a long history of successful lesbian and gay events, and I think this is recognized out there."

It is expected that at least 80 percent of the participants will register online for the Games, a first for Sydney and the Gay Games.

The top countries so far are the U.S.A. (573 registrants), Australia (203), the Netherlands (117), Ger-

many (79), Canada (76), and New Zealand (36). Registrations have been received from such diverse places as Armenia, the Bahamas, Belarus, Brazil, India, Israel, Malaysia, Mexico, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Slovakia, Thailand, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe.

There are few surprises with the sports events at this stage with the most popular being swimming, track and field, and marathon. Team sports such as soccer/football and volleyball are expected to reach high numbers.

The 12 culture events listed so far have all received keen interest with the Open Stage and Choral events gaining significant numbers of registrations. Choirs from all over the world are expected to be in Sydney, with the highlight being a concert at the Sydney Opera House the night before the Closing Ceremony.

Sydney is also hosting a number of conferences with partner organizations, the most popular themes so far being "Homophobia, Sexism, and Discrimination," "Hate Crimes," and the second international conference for lesbian and gay trade unionists, "Workers Out."

A total of 14,000 people are expected to register before the close of registration July 31, 2002. I just registered, and found that any glitches have been repaired, and the process is easier than checking your e-mail.

The earlier all participants sign up, the better idea organizers will have of potential attendees, and hopefully snag some more government and tourist funds to help make our visit enjoyable. Sign up now at <http://www.gaygamesvi.org.au/>

For info on the Federation of Gay Games, visit <http://www.gaygames.com>. The federation recently won a lawsuit against a profit-mongering twit who stole the "gaygames" URL. It linked directly to some crass porno site. Can you imagine? Highly unsportsmanlike conduct. Congrats to the federation for getting justice.

## Hoop skirts

Gay basketball guru Tony Jasinski reports that he'll have the membership forms ready for the spring/summer league within a few weeks. Games will be Thursday nights from May 17 through June 28. Everyone needs to sign up in April.

Non-competitive games take place from 5-7 p.m. every Sunday, and competitive games from 6-8 p.m., both at Eureka Valley Rec. Center 100 Collingwood at 18th. Info: Tony (415) 621-2710 or online at <http://www.gaybasketball.com>.

## Bowl Ohio

IGBO 2001, the 21st annual International Gay Bowling Organization tournament, will be held in Columbus, Ohio May 23-28. They anticipate hosting over 800 bowlers and guests from the United States, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia for IGBO 2001.

Their annual local tournament, the Columbus Ohio Midwest Invitational Classic (COMIC) has become one of the largest and most popular of the IGBO affiliate tournaments. COMIC will return to the IGBO tournament circuit in April of 2002.

"GLBT athletes, business travelers, and vacationers who come to Columbus are always impressed by the size of our community, the large number of GLBT and GLBT-friendly clubs and businesses we have and the fun we have when we



Australian rules surfing will be an exhibition sport at Gay Games VI.

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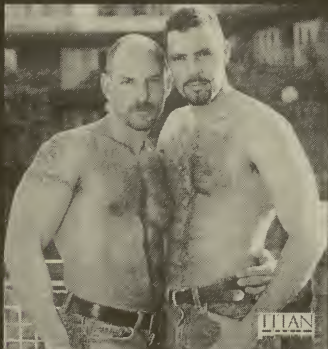
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throw a party," said Chuck Miller, secretary of IGBO 2001.

Yes, folks, I can attest, Columbus, known as the test market capital of the U.S., perfected the concept of a city with a growing GLBT community. With a quaint gay village, community center, and a growing gay student body at Ohio State, it's a great place for some Midwestern games - bowling games, that is.

## Diamonds in the rough

San Francisco Softball is one of the oldest traditions in the Bay Area's sports community. This summer's biggest GLBT sports event will definitely be the Gay Softball World Series, and the 25th anniversary of the sport, August 14-18.

Find a team near you at <http://www.SFGSL.org>. Visit <http://www.nagaaa.org> to find out about the Gay World Series in 2001, or visit <http://www.sfgsl.org/worldseries/>

Cast members from *Beach Blanket Babylon* will be performing at Opening Ceremonies. The games will be played at Twin Creeks in Sunnyvale.

Contact information: San Francisco Gay Softball League hotline: (415) 436-0707, 584 Castro Street PMB 835, San Francisco, CA 94114.

## Strip league

The Jock of the Month Team Party sponsored by the Powerhouse Hustlers as a fundraiser for the Gay World Series. Enter team players in the Hustler's Jock Strap contest. The winner will be the Hustler's "Jock of the Month" for March 2001 and will receive a \$100 cash prize. From 9 to midnight the Hustlers will earn \$1 for every bottled beer sold. All proceeds will be donated to benefit the Gay World Series. The Powerhouse (1347 Folsom Street; between 9th and 10th streets) Friday March 30, 9 p.m. - midnight.

## Oui oui

For a sporty vacation with a French flair, consider Lutte en Prise, Montreal's gay wrestling club's weekend workshop, June 1-3.

Starting with a cocktail reception, you can meet fellow wrestlers before hitting the mat on Saturday. The technique and training events will be followed by a banquet with door prizes and other

party stuff. Celebrate with your newfound friends and come see how gay jocks party in Montreal!

Registration deadline is May 19, which includes a \$75 fee. No registrations accepted after this date. All the workshops are held at Complexe Sportif Claude-Robillard, 1000, Avenue Emile-Journault, which is Montreal's leading sports center. Guest trainer will be Raymond Carrier, one of Canada's leading certified Olympic wrestling coaches.

Need more info? Want to register? Contact Kenneth at (514) 287-9449 or e-mail [kgbstar1@arobas.net](mailto:kgbstar1@arobas.net).

Montreal is one of several cities bidding for Gay Games VII in 2006. With its international flair, the French-Canadian city is a top contender. Other cities are Chicago, Atlanta, and two bids from Los Angeles.

## We, we

Locally, wrestling events culminated in the Bay Area's biggest amateur grappling event. Several members of the Golden Gate Wrestling Club competed in the Far Western Tournament at San Francisco State University last weekend. Among the hundreds of competitors were Dean Takahara, Johnny Almony, and David Dodson, who put in good showings at this highly competitive event.

Team coaches Gene Dermody and Les Morgan, longtime respected BAWA officials, helped manage the barrage of paperwork, while yours truly had the honor of scorekeeping for over 40 matches along with teammate Erika Hom. Several other GGWC members helped out, proving that the sport is a lot more inclusive than many know. I thought it kind of funny that none of the guys knew they were being scored by "that gay wrestling author." It was a great, if not slightly exhausting, day.

## Armed and ready

Wanna try your forearm grappling skills? Get a grip at the Arm Wrestling Tournament at The Edge bar at 18th and Eureka. This benefit for LYRIC, the Lavender Youth Recreation And Info Center, will take place from 6-9 p.m. on April 1. No foolin'! There'll be a raffle, entertainment and lots of bulging forearms of all genders.

For more info, go to [www.sevent.homestead.com](http://www.sevent.homestead.com). ▼



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## LEGAL NOTICES

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 247011

The following person(s) are doing business as: Variety Modern Video Film, 168 Design Group, One Six Eight Design Group, One Union Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94111. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Richard Costello. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, January 1, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/26/01.

MAR. 8, 15, 22, 29, 2001

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The following person(s) are doing business as: Cremeria Jalisco, 2969-24th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Priscilla L. Aug. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/27/01.

MAR. 8, 15, 22, 29, 2001

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 319270

In the Matter of the Application of Brandi Renee Beigel, For change of Name. The application of Brandi Renee Beigel, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Brandi Renee Beigel has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Brandi Rachel Page. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 30th day of April, 2001 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAR. 8, 15, 22, 29, 2001

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 319040

In the Matter of the Application of Michael Richard Cooney, For change of Name. The application of Michael Richard Cooney, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Michael Richard Cooney, has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Michael Zarien Mancanti. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 23rd day of April, 2001 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAR. 8, 15, 22, 29, 2001

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To Whom It May Concern: The Name(s) of the Application is: Gochez Gina Marie, Maia Taylor Azevedo, Silva Rogerio Marcos. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 823 Clement Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. Type of license Applied for:

41-ON SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE

DATE: MAR. 8, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 247204

The following person(s) are doing business as: California First Mortgage Co. 445 Baker Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Howard Louis Gaddy. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, March 6, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/06/01.

MAR. 15, 22, 29, APR. 5, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 247197

The following person(s) are doing business as: Time For Flowers & Gifts, 50 Persia Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Cherrie Maxwell. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, March 1, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/06/01.

MAR. 15, 22, 29, APR. 5, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 246999

The following person(s) are doing business as: Rockworks Productions, Inc. Rockworks Management, Rockworks Publishing, Rockworks Records, 1175 Ellis Street, Apt. #C309, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Terry J. Smith, President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, February 26, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/26/01.

MAR. 15, 22, 29, APR. 5, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 247207

The following person(s) are doing business as: Mylene's Hair Salon, 4008 24th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Mylene Carol. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, March 2, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/06/01.

MAR. 15, 22, 29, APR. 5, 2001

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 319408

In the Matter of the Application of Matthew Lawrence Ross, For change of Name. The application of Matthew Lawrence Ross, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Matthew Lawrence Ross has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Matthew Shelton Ross. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 3rd day of May, 2001 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAR. 15, 22, 29, APR. 5, 2001

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 319057

In the Matter of the Application of Teri Gyi Spivey, For change of Name. The application of Teri Gyi Spivey, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Teri Gyi Spivey has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Grace Spivey-Gyi Templeton. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 23rd day of April, 2001 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAR. 15, 22, 29, APR. 5, 2001

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 319074

In the Matter of the Application of Walter Allen Anderson, For change of Name. The application of Walter Allen Anderson, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Walter Allen Anderson, has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Wly Anderson. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 24th day of April, 2001 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAR. 15, 22, 29, APR. 5, 2001

### STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO. 0221434

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Rockworks Productions, Terrytoons Music Publishing, 5700 3rd Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: March 18, 1998. This business was conducted by: a individual: Terry James Smith

MAR. 15, 22, 29, APR. 5, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 247422

The following person(s) are doing business as: Sister Split, 235 Page Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Cynthia Anderson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, March 14, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/14/01.

MAR. 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 247352

The following person(s) are doing business as: Last Resort Fund, 187 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Paul Causey, Exec. Director. The Tenderlon AIDS Research Center (California). The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/12/01.

MAR. 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 247430

The following person(s) are doing business as: Storyline Productions, Geller/Goldfine Productions, 930 Pierce Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Daniel B. Geller. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, February 15, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/14/01.

MAR. 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 247334

The following person(s) are doing business as: Embarcadero Vendors, 201 Harrison Street #628, San Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is conducted by a husband and wife signed Nickolas E. Mabs and E. Louise Mabs. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, February 01, 1996. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/09/01.

MAR. 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 247505

The following person(s) are doing business as: American Taxicab, 1595 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Philip Achilles, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, February 08, 1996. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/16/01.

MAR. 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 247378

The following person(s) are doing business as: J.H. Tiffany and Associates, Inc. 1667 Turk Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by a corporation signed James H. Tiffany. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, March 05, 01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/13/01.

MAR. 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 2001

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 319886

In the Matter of the Application of Chiu, Ng Mui (aka) Yu Chiu, Ng Mui. For change of Name. The application of Chiu, Ng Mui (aka) Yu Chiu, Ng Mui for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Chiu, Ng Mui (aka) Yuchiu, Ng Mui has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Yee, Sanifer Ng-Mui Chiu. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 21st day of May, 2001 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAR. 29 APRIL 5, 12, 19 2001

## LEGAL NOTICES

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Application is: Kirkpatrick Kil Sun. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 1196 Geneva Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. Type of license Applied for:

48-ON SALE GENERAL PUBLIC PREMISES.

MAR. 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 2001

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 319637

In the Matter of the Application of Leslie Giles O'Bergin aka Molly Morgaine Nidana, For change of Name. The application of Leslie Giles O'Bergin aka Molly Morgaine Nidana, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Leslie Giles O'Bergin aka Molly Morgaine Nidana, has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Molly Kathryn McGinn. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 17th day of May, 2001 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAR. 15, 22, 29, APR. 5, 2001

### STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO. 0232046-00

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Storyline Productions. Located at: 930 Pierce Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 6/01/1999. This business was conducted by: a General Partnership: Daniel B. Geller.

MAR. 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 2001

### STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO. 0232047-00

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Geller/Goldfine Productions, 930 Pierce Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 6/01/1999. This business was conducted by: a General Partnership: Dayna L. Goldfine.

MAR. 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 2001

### STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO. 0227519

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: American Taxi Cab, 1595 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 12/16/1998. This business was conducted by: an individual: Philip Achilles

MAR. 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 246400

The following person(s) are doing business as: Salt Branding, LLC, 88 Guy Place #401, SF, CA 94105. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed David L. Neugebauer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01-01-01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on Jan 31, 2001.

MAR. 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 247600

The following person(s) are doing business as: Pacific Coast Mat & Mattings Co 2060 Cesar Chavez St., San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Claudine M. Bailey. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on March 21, 2001.

MAR. 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 247593

The following person(s) are doing business as: Rug Wrestlers 1240 Geneva Ave #1 SF, CA 94112. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Arturo M. Espindola Jr., De Angelo D. Dove Sr., Michael A. Hickerson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 3/21/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/21/01.

MAR. 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 247024

The following person(s) are doing business as: Julie's Deli and Restaurant 4689 Mission St. SF, CA 94112. This business is conducted by a individual signed Minh Tang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 02/27/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/27/01.

MAR. 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 247557

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Phoenix Bar & Restaurant 811 Valencia St. SF., CA 94110. This business is conducted by a limited partnership signed Eugene Francis Power, Paul Cornelius Campbell. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/20/01.

MAR. 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 247616

The following person(s) are doing business as: Privilege, Club Privilege 858 48th Ave. SF, CA 94121. This business is conducted by an individual signed Mohsen Z Salehi. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 3/16/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/22/01.

MAR. 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 247362

The following person(s) are doing business as: Circus Center, National Circus Center 755 Frederick St., SF., CA 94117. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Patrick Osborn Executive Director. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 3/12/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/12/01.

MAR. 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 247567

The following person(s) are doing business as: BBB Towing 1522 Silver Ave. SF CA 94134. This business is conducted by an individual signed Najib Yaser. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 3/20/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/20/01.

MAR. 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, 2001

### STATEMENT FILE NO. 247560

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lombard Collision Works 2340 Lombard St., SF, CA 94123. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Paulo F. Dos Santos. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/20/01.

MAR. 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, 2001

### STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO. 0232047-00

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Pacific Coast Mat & Mattings Co. 2060 Cesar Chavez St., CA 94080. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 8/01/2000. This business was conducted by: a General Partnership: Claudine Bailey, Alfred Lieberman.

MAR. 29, APR. 5, 12, 19, 2001

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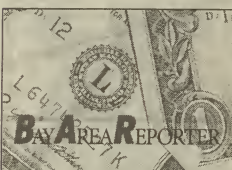
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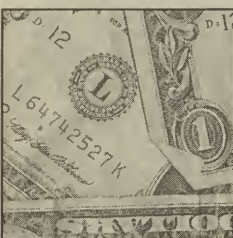
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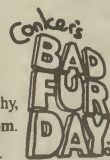


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**Queer parenting 101**

Mother, midwife and author Stephanie Brill on 'The Queer Parent's Primer.'

page 30

**Sleepless in SF**

Bill Hayes' insomniac memoir 'Sleep Demons.'

page 37

**Hitting a high C**

Once Sporty Spice, now Melanie C, to play Bimbo's.

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BAY AREA REPORTER

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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## Life and loves of Everyqueen

by Gary Morris

David Drake's 'The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me' opens at the Lumiere

David Drake's 1992 *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me* — sensitive viewers need not take the title seriously; it's just a metaphor — made history as the longest-running one-man show in Off-Broadway history. It racked up numerous awards, including the Obie (Off-Broadway equivalent of the Tony) and two Drama-logic awards, traveled all over tarnation (including Australia and China), and received wild praise from such respected venues as *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker*. Drake, who both wrote and acted the piece, was singled out as a singular talent, capturing the queer Zeitgeist of the latter quarter of the 20th century like no queen before him.

Unlike most plays, this one has been granted an afterlife through the miracle of motion pictures. Director Tim Kirkman (of *Dead Man*) collaborated with Drake on a filmed version, an apparently faithful rendering of the original, leavened for cinematic purposes with some lighting changes and editing sleight-of-hand, but retaining the minimalist sets and unerring focus on Drake as he takes us through the childhood and adulthood of his alleged Everyqueen. In this version, an unseen audience offers scattered titters and applause. The movie opens Friday at the Lumiere.

Drake begins in 1975 with his sixth birthday, which, **page 36 ▶**



## Look deeper

by Michael McDonagh

### SFMOMA's 'Points of Departure'

It used to be that art was in advance of the culture. Or as composer Earle Brown remarked to me, "The avant garde were the scouts who went out ahead of the troops, and if the avant garde goes out there and nobody follows them, you don't have an avant garde." But now the culture, especially the high-tech part, looks like it's running the art.

Though they aren't sending out any troops, some museums think they're scouting new territory. San Francisco's Museum of Modern Art certainly seems to. Its current show, *Points of Departure: Connecting with Contemporary Art*, simply oozes self-importance, and its curators, Janet Bishop and John S. Weber, feel that mixing works by different artists in theme galleries is somehow daring, like kissing on the first date. They and the techies who worked on the show and implemented its stuff — Smart Tables equipped with laptops displaying, you guessed it, talking heads; and mini hand-held PCs — believe that these "innovations" are giant steps in the evolution of our species. In a culture which craves distraction as a way of life — any gimmick as long as it's the latest — this may be just what the doctor ordered. But information is just information, and not illumination. We look to art, or used to, for that.

Some of the works here still provide that qual-

ity, especially paintings like Jasper Johns' vividly layered *0-9* (1960) and David Park's spectacularly primitive *Torso* (1959). There are also good though not great examples of the New York School by Franz Kline and Joan Mitchell (she's relegated to the wall in back of the Johns), and a mysterious *Berkeley #23* (1955) by California's Richard Diebenkorn.

A different kind of illumination happens in recent works which focus on fashionable gay, lesbian, African-American and women's issues. Gay ones are addressed by artists like Robert Gober, in drag as a bride in a faked *New York Times*; Jess' collaged photos of hunks in posing straps, from physique mags (*The Mouse's Tale*, 1951-54); Glenn Ligon's 1993 *Narratives* etchings; and maybe Andy Warhol's striking and monumental silkscreen on canvas, *National Velvet*, with its iconic Liz Taylor.

#### 'Mountain's majesty

The works of other famous American artists are also on view. Chuck Close's portrait of Robert [Rauschenberg] (1997) is a big, declarative canvas which isn't as impressive as his earlier or current work. But Brice Marden's oil on linen *Cold Mountain 6 (Bridge)* (1989-91) compares favorably with

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Torso, by David Park, 1959

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS



by Roberto Friedman  
and Oscar de la Rental

So the Oscar got carried away on little **Crowe's** feet, what else is new? The glam-queens squeezed into their formal wear for the annual Academy of Friends gala, Roxie moviegoers chomped on their burritos and hooted at the show upon the Silver Screen, and queer circles of friends gathered at their TV-screen hearths to watch the Hollywood glitz-ritual last Sunday night. It's the movie world's poshest bar mitzvah, the one with the niftiest door prizes.

Out There along with everyone else was witness once again to the most powerful p.r. machine on the planet, save perhaps that of the Catholic Church. We wouldn't have missed Icelandic phenomenon **Bjork** wearing wild fowl. But it was scary when maximum leader **Charlton Heston** gave a little *Sieg Heil* salute from the audience. And why did the set behind the podium look like the puzzle-board from *Wheel of Fortune*?

As for those state-of-the-art satellite transmissions, we loved seeing 2001 author **Sir Arthur C. Clarke** beam in from his home on the moon; but did we really deserve those tight close-ups from Down Under of the genius nos-



Icelandic phenomenon Bjork

trils of **Bob Dylan**—and ain't he the spittin' image of dear departed Surrealist **Salvador Dali** these days?

What if all that energy and all those resources were directed towards something important, like, oh let's say ending world hunger? Memo to media: Hype a hunger project next Oscar season!

## Weighty matters

Hey, how about that *Tristan and Isolde* over on PBS last week? Didn't you just love how they staged the famous love duet scene? It was filmed from so far, far away and the two of them in near-total

darkness, so it was like watching a love duet between the **Giant Buddhas** from a remote vantage point in Afghanistan.

Fortunately, *Isolde* didn't fall onto *Tristan's* body at the opera's finale, as she does in some productions. If she had taken a good flying leap, we think the combination of gravity, soprano **Jane Eaglen**, and heldentenor **Ben Heppner** would have fallen right through the stage at Lincoln Center, and possibly into maestro **James Levine's** orchestra pit. Talk about a zeppelin convention!

## Navel maneuvers

Now here's a grass roots effort: **Kirkland Tibbels**, a movie producer behind *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*, is driving up from La-La-land to SF today (Thursday) to talk to people in the bars, clubs and in the Castro about the release of *Larry Kramer*, which opens Friday. If the film does well during its one-week run at the Lumiere, Landmark Theatres may hold onto it for another week at one of their moveover houses like the Opera Plaza, or the more glamorous Embarcadero.

woods. Chicken, Maryland-style!

Drake's "innie" navel gets plenty of good exposure in the flick, and he seems to have a thing about frequently adjusting his movable parts inside his jock. There was more cup action during one sequence than in an entire Napa Valley winetasting. One can only say too much overexposure is never enough.

## The name game

*The New York Times* reported last week that Republican Senator **Ben Nelson** of Nebraska is displeased with the nickname that the **Bushy-in-Chief** has given him. In a letter to the President, Sen. Nelson wrote: "About that nickname, 'Nellie,' I'd

like to renegotiate. How about something more macho, like 'Tiger' or 'Killer.' I need to preserve my image."

Sorry, Champ, "Tiger" is already taken, at least in this town, and we think "Killer" is unseemly for a senator who is backed by the NRA. How about something playing off your first name, like "**Ben-Gay**"?

## Table talk

Victorian poet **A.C. Swinburne** stays so long at the Café Flore that nighttime descends. The cars speeding by turn on their headlights, and the billboard overhead the café comes brightly lit. This week it is Grand Remy, a giant gold liquor bottle lying on its side and shining with klieg. Swinburne ventures out to the sidewalk, straining to see the whole image. He reels from the sight and limps back to the bar inside. He orders a beer.

The poet sits inside the café building now, inside the shed built of corrugated metal and glass. He must share a table with strangers, and they fix their chairs so as to be in least sight of him. He is the prisoner of a crick in his neck, whatever gods' revenge for his worship at the billboard altar. His neck gives play neither left nor right. And so he is prey of the company at his table.

They are bored with each other; they turn to consider the strangely cultivated flower, sitting bolt upright in their midst. They train their appetite for entertainment on him, by staring not directly, but all around him, the oblique yet penetrating glances of the furtively engaged.

Swinburne is aghast. The cafe-sitters are appraising him—as if the orchids are staring back at the botanist! They are two pale women, thin as cigarettes, and a gaunt young man, wearing some amalgamation of aluminum foil and leather. The young man points his chin at Swinburne, and his hairdo follows.

This famed regular is **Oedipus California**, a dandy of 30 shades of eye-shadow and twice as many attitudes. When Oedipus was 20 years old, he moved from Philadelphia to the Café Flore. It was a voluntary self-commitment, because Oedipus had fashion but not yet plans. Café-watchers remember Oedipus' finest hour, when a lion he had shave-sculpted into the side of his skull flashed briefly as a fierce cartoon, then grew, shaggy and amorphous, into his next 'do.

"You see that bullet-hole over there in the glass?"

Swinburne, arrested by the youth's forward address, obeys the directive and finds a coin-sized hole just beneath the café signature. He jerks his head in a rough nod, unable to move his neck.

"That's from the night they finally got **Art Brut**," says Oedipus, and his eyes draw closed beneath their make-up. "USA, CIA, FBI, IRS all rolled up into one ball. Old Art was talking the truth too much of the time, you get the picture?"

Swinburne tosses his red mane with a painful jolt of the neck. This harlequin's words have stirred the poetry within him. "Behold now, surely somewhere there is death," he extemporizes. "For each man hath some space of years. A little space of time expires, a little day, a little way of breath."

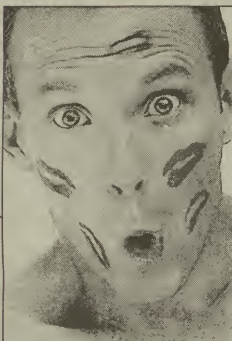
"You're dead right, no future," says California. His eyes reappear from under their lids, to study the poet.

[To be continued.] ▼

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## FILM

## Out in Sonoma County



The Fourth Annual Sonoma Valley Film Festival opens March 29 for four days of premieres, classics, panels and presentations. This year's theme is *Art, Passion and Politics*, and the featured films include Arthur Dong's Emmy-nominated *Coming Out Under Fire*, a documentary recounting the experiences of nine gay and lesbian veterans during World War II. (Pictured: the "Carmen Miranda" number from the U.S. Army show, *Contact Caravan*.)

Also on the line-up: Kim Cummings' coming-of-age story *Weeki Wachee Girls*, and the Pre-Code Ernst Lubitsch comedy *Design for Living*, starring Gary Cooper, Miriam Hopkins and Fredric March.

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# Facing up to the Furies

The Oresteia trilogy continues in Berkeley

by Richard Dodds

Berkeley Rep no doubt realizes that the best way to see the two halves of its *Oresteia* is in one large dose, and it has set up several ways to make this happen. Unfortunately, most theatergoers attending the debut attraction in the new Roda Theatre will probably find it either too daunting or too inconvenient to take in the entire work in a single session. But what directors Tony Taccone and Stephen Wadsworth have created is an organic entity, and a considerable achievement, that really shouldn't be sliced into distant parts.

First-nighters had no choice but to wait out a week-long intermission after *Agamemnon*, before the combined production of *The Libation Bearers* and *The Eumenides* arrived to put the slow-starting and curiously unadorned *Agamemnon* into a more favorable context. Those who not unreasonably opted out of continuing with the trilogy after *Agamemnon* are squandering their investment by not taking the entire ride that the directors have constructed through Aeschylus' 2,500-year-old pioneering drama.

The second half of this ambitious enterprise certainly provides set designer Christopher Barreca a better chance to show off the scenic possibilities of the new theater, with the grim fortress of his *Agamemnon* set becoming one piece in a visual mosaic that even-



Duane Boutté and Derrick Lee Weeden in *The Libation Bearers*

tually achieves applause-provoking splendor. The elaborate set changes happen smoothly and silently on the expansive stage.

The emotions also grow to epic-sized proportions as Orestes and his sister Electra plot to kill their mother Clytaemnestra and her lover Aegisthus for the murder of their father Agamemnon. They further build as Orestes faces the wrath of the Furies, avenging deities who find their case for matricide compromised by Orestes' claim that he was doing the bidding of the god Apollo.

The high intensity of Duane Boutté's performance as Orestes and the maniacal passions of the Furies led by the riveting Sharon

Lockwood — so fully wrought in this production — take an unexpected turn with the arrival of Michelle Morain's slightly goofy Athena, the goddess summoned to resolve Orestes' fate. Who knew there was comedy lurking in Greek tragedy?

This final segment, famous for its first depiction of a trial by jury, perhaps overdoes the popular approach, even employing volunteers from the audience to become part of the tribunal. But if it minimizes the import of what has come before it, the audience finds relief in the levity, and this lighter tone is part of the arc that the di-

## Blue notes



A new work by local playwright Erica Blue looking back to the early 20th century opens Exit Theatre's Absurdist Season 2001. *Vincenzia's Talking Machine* depicts Italian American immigrants, their struggles with scandal, and Catholic mysticism. Blue's solo work *Simone Alone* just ended a run in New York at La Mama. *Vincenzia* runs through April 11 at Exit Stage Left, 156 Eddy St. For tickets (\$12), call (415) 673-3847 or go to [www.sffringe.org](http://www.sffringe.org).

rectors have devised for their production.

Yes, it's a major commitment of time and money to take in both halves of this production of *The Oresteia*, but the experience really only begins to make sense in its entirety. And it's an experience

that presents itself but rarely. The investment is worth it.

*The Oresteia*, presented in two parts, will run through May 6. Tickets are \$40-50-\$51. Call (510) 647-2949.

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# Coming home to the Plush Room

Jacqui Naylor is live on her new CD

by Jim Van Buskirk

Jacqui Naylor is at it again. The beautiful blonde singer is back in town following a successful three-month gig at Tableaux Lounge in the trendy Daikanyama district of Tokyo. In this intimate jazz club, with its cozy fireplace and walls lined with books, Jacqui performed four short sets a night. The club is also famous, as she soon found out, for its wide selection of cigars. "I was sick for the first two weeks," she confessed recently over lunch. "But then we sort of stopped noticing that the smell had permeated our hair, our clothes,

everything."

In addition to performing the carefully chosen jazz standards that she's becoming well-known for, Jacqui quickly realized that she needed to cater to customers' requests. Among the Japanese patrons' favorites were "Autumn Leaves," "Fly Me to the Moon," and the "Theme from *Casablanca*." This, she figured out, was "As Time Goes By," from *Casablanca*. After an elegant evening of being sent bottles of Dom Perignon by attentive admirers, she'd climb on her bicycle and pedal back to her apartment in the nearby neighborhood of Hiro.

As much as she enjoyed the experience, she's glad to be home and looking forward to her upcoming two-week gig at the Plush Room. Opening April 3, the engagement is an opportunity to celebrate her new CD, *Live at the Plush Room*, a collection of songs from her earlier concerts there. But she's equally excited because she's donating 30 percent of the revenue from the sale of the CD and from the concert to benefit Music in Schools Today (MUST). This non-profit organization serves public schools throughout the San Francisco Bay Area by providing support and resources for both students and educators, and raising public awareness of the critical need for music and arts education. MUST's award-winning music and arts programs have helped thousands of diverse students develop their talent and creativity.

This is not the first organization to benefit from Naylor's largesse. Past recipients of Naylor's generosity include the Red Cross Relief in Kosovo and the San Francisco Public Library's effort to restore their much-needed piano.

## Smoke rings

The new live recording shows Naylor's growth as an artist from her acclaimed 1999 debut studio album. Here she's more relaxed and playful as she spins her smooth and smoky sonorous voice around such classics as "It Could Happen to You," "Lazy Afternoon," and a pair by Irving Berlin, "I Got the Sun in the Morning" and "Blue Skies." Naylor seems to be spread-

ing her wings, warming up and taking risks, all of which serve her and her material well. She's obviously partial to the lyrics of Gus Kahn, offering a rambunctious rendition of "My Baby Just Cares for Me," as well as a heartfelt "Time after Time" and a commanding "Love Me or Leave Me."

Although firmly rooted in jazz's golden years, she takes a brief detour to offer a poignant rendition of Bill Withers' "Ain't no Sunshine." Accompanied by and arranged by, variously, John Witala, Michael Bluestein, and Andrew Ostwald, the sound quality of *Live at the Plush Room* is consistently excellent, not always the case for an album like this one, whose cuts were selected from Naylor's three runs at the venerable venue.

Omitted is any of the singer's restrained patter in performance, its 45 minutes focusing instead on Naylor's musical magic. In performance as on recording, Naylor is alternately sexy, sad, sophisticated and sultry, and always satisfying. ▼



Big in Japan: Song stylist Jacqui Naylor

Jacqui Naylor performs April 3-14, Wed. through Sat. at 8 p.m., with additional perfor-

mances Saturday, April 7 & 14 at 10 p.m., at the Plush Room, 940 Sutter. Call 885-2800.

## Sporty Spice no more

Melanie C to play clubdate at Bimbo's

by Alex Robertson Textor

Melanie C, the artist formerly known as Sporty Spice, will perform at Bimbo's on April 3. The San Francisco date is part of a short North American small-venue tour, her first North American tour beyond one-off showcase gigs. Melanie C will be performing material from her first solo album.

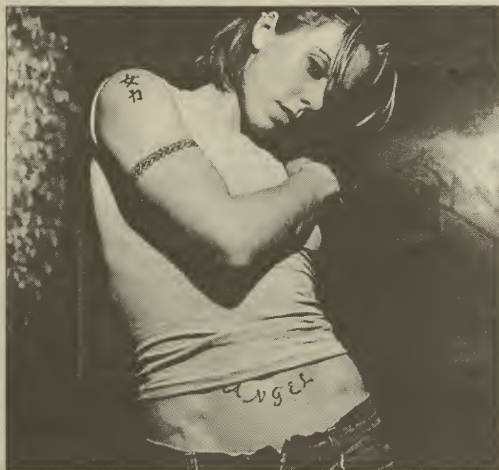
Who is Melanie C? She was always the tough, quiet Spice, the dyke icon who could belt. She was the last of the Spices to get her own magazine cover, but when it came, on London fashion magazine *i-D* in early 1999, one sensed that only the surface of her iconic potential had yet been scratched. In the ensuing spread, she bound her chest and showed off her lower back muscles. In *Q* magazine a few months later, she claimed that the Spice Girls would henceforth be no more than her "hobby."

That was before Mel hit it big as a solo entertainer. Her debut album *Northern Star* was released in the fall of 1999. Though US glossies appeared interested at the time (*Interview* picked up on *Northern Star*'s pre-release buzz and featured Mel C in a vaguely pornographic two-page shot), Virgin seemed to abandon promotional efforts in North America. As a result, Melanie C is fairly unknown in the US as a solo star.

In fact, Virgin didn't even release a commercial single from the album in the US until a few weeks ago, deciding belatedly to cash in on the surprise clubland success of a remixed track from *Northern Star*, "I Turn to You."

## Free from Spice

On *Northern Star*, freed from Spicestyle harmonizing, Melanie C luxuriates in her own powerful voice, supported by pristine production and hooks of her own design. Even stodgy US rock critics recognized the album's caliber,



'When I was Sporty Spice, I felt like a kid': Melanie C

giving it decent reviews. Slowly, the album took off, spawning several single releases. Two of those singles, "Never Be the Same Again" (featuring TLC's Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes with a mid-song rap) and "I Turn to You," were massive hits worldwide.

*Northern Star* is a diverse collection of songs. Its eclecticism is both a strength and a weakness. Mel C worked with a mess of co-writers and producers, and ended up with an album that didn't sound like the Spice Girls, but didn't really have a sound of its own: a slice of Garbage here; a vague nod to Roxette there; something approximating the Cardigans in another place.

Those hoping for a more definitive idiomatic direction will be disappointed by Mel C's future plans. During a recent tour of Asia, Mel spoke at a press conference in Malaysia about her second solo effort: "I am a lover of various types of music, and I like trying different types of music, and I

like trying different vocal styles. [The next album] will probably be similar to my album now, but it will have a braver style."

The Spice Girls are still, inevitably, part of the story. On March 9, Mel C told Reuters that she doesn't "intend to do any more work with the Spice Girls. It doesn't really feel that natural to me any more." The next day, she recanted on a live British television show, though a probably more accurate revelation came on March 20, during an interview in Moscow:

"Everybody grows. When I was Sporty Spice, I felt like a kid, and now I feel [like] an adult."

Whatever the case, the Spice Girls phenomenon and the singer known as Sporty Spice are gone. Meet Talented Post-Spice. She's 27. She doesn't have a doll named after her anymore, but she is building an oeuvre all her own. ▼

Mel C plays Bimbo's, 1025 Columbus, 8 p.m. on April 3.

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## DANCE

# Maximum dance

Paul Taylor Dance Company at Yerba Buena Center

by Stephanie von Buchau

Do any of you remember *Sacred Grove* on Mt. Tamalpais, that balletic paean to sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll by the Joffrey Ballet's Gerald Arpino? It unashamedly co-opted all the worst attitudes of the '60s: free love (the price was STDs, including AIDS), happy highs (before half our friends ODed or ended up with fried brains, and before we knew anything about vicious Colombian drug cartels), and really awful "ethnic" music symbolizing one world, love and brotherhood (plus whatever money could be made out of exploiting genuine ethnic artists).

Paul Taylor's new *Fiends Angelical*, which debuted during the Paul Taylor Dance Company's two-week stint at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, reminds me of the rancid *Sacred Grove* in lots of unwholesome ways. Taylor's seemingly cynical employment of a dated score by George Crumb ("Black Angels," played on tape by the always-hustling Kronos Quartet), and the "aboriginal" look of the costumes and red fright wigs gave *Fiends* an unearned hippie-ethnic aura.

The scenario is pure anthropological bunkum. Goddess Silvia Nevjinsky (only one of two major Taylor women — Lisa Viola is the other — who doesn't look like she just finished milking cows in Minnesota) presides over a tribe of primitives, one couple of which strangle each other during brief but violent sex. Goddess and tribe pray, boogie and suplicate, and ta-da! Love couple comes back to life. Civilization (or organized religion) triumphs; the human race will continue. O frabjous day!

I must say that I liked this nonsense better than *Dandelion Wine*, the anodyne piece that preceded *Fiends* and may be Taylor's expiation for creating the faux-ugly *Fiends* in the first place. Thing is, I didn't think *Fiends* was ugly — after all, it entertains sex, if not rock 'n' roll or drugs — just obvious and old-hat. It was mostly about Santo Loquasto's costumes, as was *Cascade*, another local premiere that opened the first program. Both sets of costumes — glittery and heavily decorated, in dark, sensuous colors — looked as if they had come from the same paint box and fabric roll.

The only problem with *Cascade*'s sumptuous costumes was that they looked Renaissance, while the music was Baroque, bleeding chunks of keyboard concerti by J.S. Bach. The music for *Dandelion* was also Baroque, Locatelli's Violin Concerto no. 2. Both were hideously amplified. You simply cannot do that to Baroque music — especially on period instruments — without giving the listener the idea he is attending a bad rave party with a tone-deaf DJ at the controls.

## Muscle tease

Since *Dandelion Wine* was totally insipid choreographically, it didn't matter that Loquasto's costumes — pastel muscle shirts with contrasting collars and belts for the boys — were out of some really bad *Beach Blanket* flick. In *Fiends*, you couldn't tell who was who because of all that makeup and the group-think movement, but in *Cascade* there appeared two memorable Taylor moments that made up for much choreography "by the yard." Lisa Viola, the com-



Dancers of the Paul Taylor Dance Company in *Syzygy*: '20 minutes of kinetic hell'

pany's steadiest, most volatile dancer (no, that is not a contradiction; she does both), had a fizzing, violent yet utterly musical solo, while Patrick Corbin and Maureen Mansfield did one of those complicated but soul-satisfying duets (no sex, please, we're dancers) that have always endeared Taylor to his audiences and to his performers.

Taylor has never managed to replace his two handsome hunks, Christopher Gillis (a casualty of AIDS) and David Parsons (formed his own company). PTDC has some new men with solid, meaty bodies, but not the genuine beauties that Gillis and Parsons were. As a result, the pug-nacious Corbin is overworked (and sometimes miscast) as a romantic lead, while newish guys like Orion Duckstein (is that a pseudonym?) and Robert Kleinendorf (he's the one with the mullet hairdo) are fast and responsive but lack stage presence and sexual charisma.

I was also shocked that *Big Bertha*, which I first saw nearly 30 years ago with Bettie de Jong as the world's grossest dominatrix, seemed so tepid this time around. Yes, I'm sure it still shocks 'em in San Jose and in the Midwest, where nobody has ever heard of incest, rape or murder except on *Jerry Springer* or *Jenny Jones*, but I found it shockingly uninsightful. At least the music — band-machine versions of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" and other mid-century effluvia from the St. Louis Melody Museum — was supposed to sound garishly amplified.

From the two programs I saw, the piece that provided the most pleasure was the 1987 *Syzygy*, to a rocking synth score by Donald York that had nothing on its empty mind but propelling 13 superbly-conditioned dancers through 20 minutes of kinetic hell. I had a stiff neck and a Charlie horse by the time it was over, and I was just watching. The dancers, including super-dynamo Viola and the ageless Richard Chen See, spun, ran, fell, twisted, jumped and all but spit up their guts for our pleasure.

If that is the sum of the newish Paul Taylor choreography — energy rather than insight — it's okay with me. Yes, General Maximus, we were entertained. ▼

Paul Taylor Dance Company performs at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 700 Howard St., through April 1. For tickets (\$12-\$45), call (415) 392-4400.

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# Playing the ruthless sort

Pierce Brosnan on 'The Tailor of Panama'

by Tim Nasson

While the big news about *The Tailor of Panama* should be that the impeccably styled Pierce Brosnan is poking fun at himself by playing a cynical, rotten, ruthless British secret agent, totally the opposite of the role he plays in the Bond films, the biggest story behind the movie is that it co-stars Daniel Radcliffe as Mark, Harry "The Tailor" (Geoffrey Rush) and Louisa's (Jamie Lee Curtis) son. Who is Daniel Radcliffe, you ask?

"The lad," said Brosnan, "will be much more famous than me and 007 when his film opens on Thanksgiving, I'm sure." Radcliffe's holiday film is *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, the most anticipated movie since *Star Wars: Episode One*. Radcliffe plays Harry Potter.

For now, Pierce Brosnan will revel in his success, albeit humbly, and enjoys having been able to "trash the Bond-heroic secret agent with my role in *The Tailor of Panama*."

"It didn't become apparent to me until I got into the belly of the beast, if you will," said Brosnan, "that the character I play is so damn evil. I initially signed onto the film not because of the character, but, because John Boorman was directing. When I read the book, and then the script, I thought it was 'the Tailor' that they wanted me for, because in the book, the character I play is about 20 years younger than me."

Academy Award-winner Geoffrey Rush (*Shine*) plays the crazed, in-debt-over-his-head, Cockney ex-con "Tailor." Rush's character has reinvented himself as a popular tailor to the rich and powerful of his country. He is famous for

his storytelling as well as his suits. Brosnan's spy, Osnard, tries to outwit him. The story turns from drama to farce as Harry's stories spin out of control and inadvertently set off a chain of events that threatens Panama.

"When I met David Cornwell aka John le Carre, who wrote the novel, we spent an afternoon trying to fill in 20 years of my character's life, but still keeping some of the ingredients that were with him in the book. He is such a swine. Such a shit really, no matter the age. He only has his own intentions at heart," Brosnan explained recently at the Four Seasons Hotel in Beverly Hills.

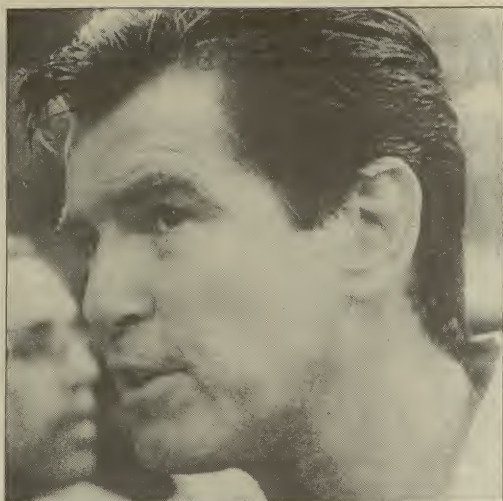
Brosnan is nothing like the character he plays in *Tailor*, but they both have style. "I think style is having confidence and liking one's self," he said. "As we all know, when you feel good about yourself, it doesn't matter what you put on. If you feel strong, then you can wear anything. I think style comes from confidence; it comes from a joy of life. You don't need to have money to have style."

## Out in Panama

The multiple Academy Award-nominated director John Boorman (*Deliverance*, *Hope and Glory*) "played with the script a lot, too," said Brosnan. "He is the one who decided to bring in the gay bar scene. Here we have Geoffrey Rush's character, 'the Tailor,' who is so easily embarrassed, dragged by my character to a gay bar for a night. It almost kills him. But that is what my Osnard does best, getting under people's skin. All the while, though he is an unpleasant fellow, my character is likable. The audience seems to want to root for him."

Brosnan described the scene that took all night to film in one of Panama's gay nightclubs. "We were out all night with what seemed like all the gays in Panama, and they certainly know how to have a great time. I even had a lot of fun dancing cheek to cheek with Geoffrey Rush. But I think he had a little more fun than I did. He is quoted somewhere as saying it was the highlight of his year."

Was he drinking the cocktail



Pierce Brosnan as Osnard in *The Tailor of Panama*

that was made famous the world over by the Bond films? "You bet," he laughed. "I like my martinis shaken because stirring bruises the alcohol. I have no idea of the physics of it, but I heard it from someone who knows about those things, and I believe it."

During the course of filming the movie in Panama, Brosnan had a memorable encounter. "I was at the airport one day, and the President of Panama was there with a retinue of people. I had a dreadful hangover, because the night before was when we had shot the gay disco scene. Here I am feeling like crap and meeting the woman who could potentially tell the crew to get the hell out of her country if she wanted to. I spoke to her and tried to be as polite as possible so as not to ruin the deal the studio had with her country for filming there."

There were a lot of security measures taken so that no one involved with the filming was kidnapped. "The people are all trying to survive in a hard political climate in a country that was torn apart by the United States. I felt very safe there, though."

## Family life

Two days after the *BAR* interviewed the 49-year-old Brosnan, his fiancé Keely had their second child together, a son. "We plan on marrying this year, too. We would have last year, but my older son got into a terrible, near-fatal accident last

year, and we postponed the marriage. He is doing very well now, though." Brosnan, who has had his share of tragedies, lost his first wife to cancer nearly a decade ago.

While Brosnan is under contract to play in two more Bond films, his next big role is that of taking the United States citizenship test. "I love the United States," he says. "I have two American sons, and this country has embraced me. I look forward to being able to become part of it, officially." Brosnan, who grew up in County Meath, Ireland, and who worked as a circus fire-eater and London cabdriver before finding his way to acting, arrived in the United States in the early '80s to star as TV's *Remington Steele*. He will keep his Irish citizenship as well. His favorite place to vacation? "Bora Bora, without a doubt. I was taken there by Keely a number of years ago. So for our relationship it has great meaning."

What will become of James Bond after Brosnan fulfills his contract? "Well, I doubt I will do anymore. The studio wants a new one pumped out every 18 months, and that schedule is too much for me. I am not getting any younger, that's for sure."

"Hmmm," he pondered. "Perhaps a Jamie Bond? A woman Bond?" ▼

*The Tailor of Panama* opens March 30 in wide release.

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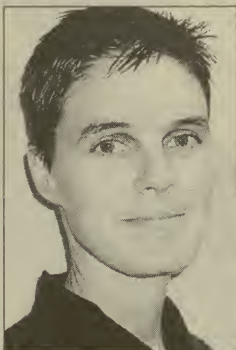
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# Designing a workbook for queer parenting

Mother, midwife, author Stephanie Brill

by Elisabeth Flynn



Stephanie Brill

Stephanie Brill knows about family values. As a practicing midwife, the partnered lesbian mother of two, and co-founder of Berkeley-based Maia Midwifery and Preconception Services, Brill has spent the better part of 10 years helping families begin. This month Brill makes her debut as an author, with the publication of *The Queer Parent's Primer: A Lesbian and Gay Families' Guide to Navigating the Straight World* (New Harbinger Publications).

In recent years, the issue of queer parenting has emerged from the shadows and taken its place on

the cultural and political main stage. Brill has enjoyed a unique vantage, in both her private and professional life, to a special kind of revolution — one which, household by household, is changing the way people think about family and home. After nearly a decade of working with queer parents and families here in the Bay Area, she says, "I wanted to be able to share that [experience] with parents all over the country."

Brill began her career as a midwife in 1992, and shortly thereafter she began to see a need for additional services among the lesbian and bisexual community. "The midwifery and obstetric

next page ►



## BOOKS

# A boy's own story

Edith Forbes' 'Navigating the Darwin Straits' returns to Kilgore

by Deborah Peifer

Edith Forbes is a novelist of astonishing skill. Her first novel, *Alma Rose* (Seal, \$12.95), explored the life of Pat Lloyd, a seemingly ordinary woman in a small Texas town whose life is forever changed when a truck driver named Alma Rose passes through Kilgore. Don't think for a moment that *Alma Rose* was a typical dyke-meets-dyke romance, or trite coming-out story. *Alma Rose* was filled with richness of character and language and plot. Had it been the culminating novel of a lifetime of writing, it would have been impressive, but for a first novel, it was spectacular.

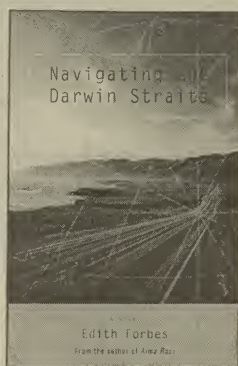
Forbes' second novel, *Nowle's Passing* (Seal, \$12), was the tale of three siblings who must face the horror of their father's suicide, and worse. Again, Forbes' use of language was breathtaking, her characters unforgettable. With *Exit to Reality* (Seal, \$12), Forbes took science fiction for her genre, and raised compelling questions about life and death, and whether the former matters when the latter no longer exists. The news of a fourth Edith Forbes novel is of no

small moment for those of us who live to read. *Navigating the Darwin Straits* (Seal, \$13.95) is a worthy addition to this noble line; it is an absolutely wonderful novel.

Forbes returns to Kilgore, but this is no sequel. She chooses this time to tell the story of Jordy McNeil, a young man readers of *Alma Rose* will remember as the boy who was attacked by Pat's

dog. This time, though, we hear that story told by Jordy, and his understanding and perceptions of the event differ markedly from Pat's reporting of the same tale.

Jordy's mother was born in Kilgore, but fled when her parents were less than thrilled about her being a lesbian. Raising Jordy as a single mom, the aftereffect of a last attempt to convert to heterosexuality, Donna determines the one clear way to deal with being broke all the time, something that Jordy has no trouble explaining: "The rule that had governed our lives was short and definite: 'We can live without it.' In five words, my mother dispensed with every buyable object in existence, unless it was immediately required for physical survival." You may well imagine Jordy's dismay when steady, stable Donna announces that she's had it with



green, and trees everywhere blocking the view, and insists that they must leave Portland and return to the wide-open spaces of her hometown, Kilgore. Of course, to Jordy, the land looks scorched clean, something he's convinced could have been caused by his grandmother's penetrating glare.

*Navigating the Darwin Straits* is told by Jordy, but this is not only his story; it is the story of Donna and Pat, a love story that will bring happy tears, and of all the remarkable people he meets on his journey to himself. Consider Reba, his first real friend in Kilgore, who refused "to clutter up her brain with information she would never need, such as algebra.

She said that Alzheimer's disease was caused by information overload. ... In her view, it was never too early to start a prevention program." Reba is the first of many lesbians with whom Jordy will fall in love, and each falling is told with simplicity and anguish.

Forbes uses language with extraordinary delicacy, and captures the linguistic variants of her individual characters with remarkable skill. Her characters are vivid, important, and unforgettable. She uses humor deftly, and pathos with a sure hand. *Navigating the Darwin Straits* is a moving narrative, one which takes its hero, and its readers, on a stunning journey. Don't miss it.

## April events

The Bay Area Book Reviewers Association honors the best in Northern California writing at its 20th annual BABRA Awards at the Main Library on April 5. The ceremony, at 6 p.m., is preceded by a wine and cheese reception at 5 p.m.

Also at the Main, "Broadway's Gay Tunesmiths," lecture/demonstrations on the lives of Cole Porter (April 10, 6:15 p.m.) and Lorenz Hart (April 18, 6:15 p.m.) with popular musical theater expert Bonnie Weiss and Musical Theater Lovers United.

Northern California Lambda Literary Award nominees, including Nancy Boutilier, Krandall Kraus, Paul Borja, Jess Wells, and

others, read from their works at the Main, beginning at 5:30 p.m. on April 12. All events at the Library are free, and very entertaining.

On April 7 at 10 a.m., A Different Light Bookstore starts a gay men's book group. The first book to be discussed is *Swann's Way*. You'll need to have read Part One for the first meeting. My hat's off to anyone willing to rise early on a Saturday to discuss Proust. The group will be lead by Don Weise from Cleis Press. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries or info of a literary nature, send them to DeborahPeifer@msn.com, or via snail mail to the BAR.

## Book Report

## Queer parenting

◀ previous page

model that is out there is heterosexually based," Brill says. She had encountered "many women wanting to be parents," but, lacking medical or emotional support, gay and bisexual women often found the process isolating, and pregnancy itself difficult to achieve.

"I wanted to focus on the emotional, psycho-sexual and medical fertility issues that were preventing lesbians from getting pregnant," she says. In addition to the midwifery practice, Maia Preconception Services now range from initial consultation to drafting contracts with donors, to childbirth education classes, as well as insemination services.

In her capacity as midwife, consultant and lecturer, Brill estimates she has worked with "thousands" of families. It seemed only natural to collect her experience in book form.

"The book was in me," Brill explains. "Part of it is because I'm a really driven person. And I'm a social activist also," she says.

Through her work, Brill says, "I've been able to participate in the experience of so many other queer parents. I wanted to be able to share that with our heterosexual friends and family, who'd gain an insight into what our lives are like."

### California freedom

Brill's own family includes partner Colleen and two daughters, Gi (10) and Namaya (two), plus another addition due this May. "I always knew I wanted to be a parent," she says, and growing up in Berkeley gave her the freedom to imagine her life this way. "I didn't have that internal homophobia to overcome," she says. "It just wasn't talked about."

For her writing of *Queer Parent's Primer*, Brill conducted interviews with queer parents all over

the US ("I did a lot through word of mouth and networking, through the Internet, and through gay and lesbian organizations around the country," she says), and her efforts at inclusiveness have clearly paid off. Brill's book recognizes the many ways gay men and women may come to parenting — from divorce to dating a parent to actual insemination — and seems to have advice or anecdotes for every possible arrangement.

"It was really important to me to cover a diverse group of families," she says, not just geographically but racially and economically as well, "so that I would get a true reflection of what was going on." While it's natural for Bay Area gays and lesbians to assume an advantage in raising kids here, Brill admits she was "very pleasantly surprised to discover that gay parents all over the country, and their kids, felt like they were having wonderful lives."

Her book tackles the myriad concerns a prospective queer parent may face, from the naming of two moms or dads, to dealing with difficult in-laws or extended family, working with school administrations, and finding gay-friendly day care. Among the most commonly voiced concerns Brill says she hears are: "Is it fair to our children? What kind of ostracism will they face? How will my family accept it? And my community? Will we be accepted as a valid family? Along with, 'Can I be that out?'"

She writes candidly about the ways becoming a parent can affect your sense of self — both as a gay man or lesbian, and as an individual in the wider world. More than most, queer parents may find themselves treading a delicate line between the personal and the political, simply by being themselves. As Brill writes in her introduction: "The ignorance you will encounter on your child-rearing path, how you respond to such ignorance, and the manner in which

you teach your children and others are political. Yet parenting is practical; it is an integral part of our day-to-day lives."

### Obstacle course

While never ignoring the obstacles gay parents may face, Brill is steadfastly positive in her presentation. She says she's learned from experience that trouble "always equalizes out, for the most part, and when it doesn't, you just remove your kids from those situa-

tions and find healthier situations."

She offers plenty of practical advice, but in the end Brill's book is less prescriptive than provocative, encouraging readers to re-examine our own beliefs, our conception of what a family should be. Each chapter concludes with an exercise to be done alone or with a partner, along with a series of questions. (What, in your mind, constitutes a family? What are your hopes and fears for a child of

page 40 ►

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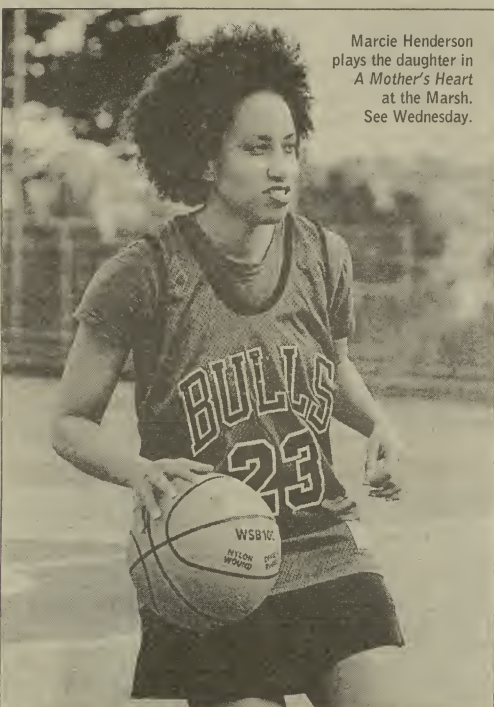
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# OUT & ABOUT



Marcie Henderson plays the daughter in *A Mother's Heart* at the Marsh. See Wednesday.

## Calendare by Mark Mardon

### high concept-low budget

**H**undreds of submissions from around the world were narrowed down to just 20 films for screening at this year's **hi/lo film festival**, which happens this weekend at **Victoria Theatre** in the Mission. The festival, fast becoming a major West Coast showcase for independent low-budget film makers, is the stepchild of Marc Vogl and Brian L. Perkins of the San Francisco production company and comedy collective *Killing My Lobster*, known heretofore mainly for their theatrical antics.

While there's nothing particularly queer about the film fest, edginess abounds, always a plus with art fags. In Program I this weekend (Fri. 8pm & Sat. 10pm), we have, among 10 intriguing offerings, a 22-min. digital video by Jeff gove, *Monster Business*, documenting the contradictory American Dream as lived by one man and his monster truck, and an 8-min. 16mm piece, *Dear XXX* by Daniel Cavey, about one man in his house with his records: "Technically speaking he feels fine, but if the lighting and soundtrack to his life are any clue, maybe we shouldn't be so sure."

Add to that Les LeVeque's 4 *Vertigo*, and you have a truly strange melange: "If you crammed Alfred Hitchcock into a kaleidoscope and sped up the space-time continuum, this is what you might get. Intense. Challenging. Possibly sickening."

In Program II (Sat. 8pm & Sun. 8pm), we get *Hospital Food* by UK filmmaker Joe Tunmer (35mm; 6 min.), "an elegant and heartbreaking chronicle of life and death as told by one family using one phone in one hallway," and, at 24 minutes the longest entry in the fest, *ID Citizen* by Venezuelan filmmaker Diego Velasco, which "follows one long-haired kid as he tries to negotiate his nation's bureaucracy and avoid the draft; along the way he buys a hot dog, meets a girl, and hangs on to his principles."

The nature of the works submitted generally conforms to the "high-concept" ideals of the *Killing My Lobster* crew, who sought out low-budget flicks "that seek and achieve originality in the face of increasing industrial standardization in the movie business." The Lobsters say they "privilege ideas and creativity over imitation and slickness."

If those are not exactly novel goals, they're nevertheless a good yardstick by which to measure film entries, and if past hi/lo film fests are any indication, enthusiasm for the current crop of film and video fare will ride as high as the Lobsters on horseback. ▼

The 4th hi/lo film festival takes place March 30-April 1 at the Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th St. (at Capp). For more info, phone 267-0642 or surf [www.killingmylobster.com](http://www.killingmylobster.com)

## Fri 30

### Paradise Lounge

Blue Period presents "GLITZ," the monthly glamorous rock 'n' roll party, featuring local glitter-rock sensation Blue Period, along with Vegas DeMilo and the Fontanelles (from LA). DJ Danny spins "shake-your-ass" rock 'n' roll; enjoy the Dietrich Lounge with Rykarda Parosol, and DJs Jett and Chiclett; Patty O'Furniture emcees the extravaganza which also includes sexy go-go dancers, paparazzi, and the Instant Glamour Booth for the fashion-impaired. \$5 before 10pm, \$10 afterward. 9pm-2am. Paradise Lounge, 308 11th St. Info: 621-1911; [www.blue-period.com/glitz](http://www.blue-period.com/glitz)

### Space Gallery

Opening reception: Spaceprojekt presents "Music Box," featuring new works by Nation, who declares that "in a world that prefers to look at pretty art, all too often images of emotional pain are ignored. . . . We would never have beauty without monstrosity." The list of his admirers includes legendary drag diva Juanita MORE!, legendary queer-scene photographer Daniel Nicoletta, and legendary hairstylist to the stars and gallery owner Brent Haas. Free. 6-9pm. Exhibit runs thru April. 27. 1141 Polk St. (btwn Sutter & Post. Info: 674-1997; [www.spaceprojekt.com](http://www.spaceprojekt.com)

### Magic Theatre

Opening night: Frank Wortham's "House of Lucky," directed by Josh Costello. The play revolves around Harper Jones (Wortham), a young poet with a penchant for the wild life. In this comic career through drugs, MUNI, dangerous sex, alcohol, and poetry slams, Wortham plays a total of 17 characters in a wide range of SF scenes. \$30 Fri. & Sat.; \$25 Wed., Thu. & Sun.; \$8 student/senior rush (subject to availability). Bldg. D, Ft. Mason Center (Marina Blvd. @ Buchanan St.). Tix/info: 441-8822; [www.magictheatre.org](http://www.magictheatre.org)

### Stop AIDS Project

Our Love presents "Back that Ass Up!" a workshop for African American men on the "ins and outs" of anal sex. Hear experts and watch live demo. Free. 8-10pm. 2128 15th St. (at Market). Info: Mike at 575-0155; email [mike@stopaids.org](mailto:mike@stopaids.org)

## Sat 31

### The New Black Gallery

One night only: "Charly Brown: Why I Love the Internet," an exhibition of adult-oriented artwork by the founder of Voice Farm, the queer art-rock band of the 1990s. Brown has reinterpreted private images from the Internet, bringing an outré sensibility to his work. His accompanying new limited-edition book *Why I Love the Internet*, catalogs and reframes these provocative images. Free. 5:30-9pm. 2120 Bryant St. Info: [thenewblack.org](http://thenewblack.org); [voicefarm.com](http://voicefarm.com)

### Jon Sims Center for the Arts

San Francisco in Exile Live at JSC (SFInX) presents "EXILE," the fierce inaugural show of a new queer performance/recording series featuring local queer performers and exiles. Tonight: Kris Kovick (assassinationologist/dilologist); Marcus Rene Van (Slam Team SF 2000); Philip Huang (last seen in "Queer Writings from Asian Pacific America" at JSC); Kassy Kayiatos (freestyler & Sister Spit slammer); alegria sonata barclay (RESYST/Revolutionary Voices poet); Maria Poblet (STORM organizer/Revolutionary Voices poet); and Sara Moore, your humble host. This new monthly event will be digitally audio recorded for the new web-based queer artists' archive, [www.SFInXile.org](http://www.SFInXile.org). \$5-\$10 (NOTAFLÖF). 9-11pm. 1519 Mission Street (at Van Ness); all-ages, accessible, non-com-

mercial. Call ahead to arrange wheelchair access: 554-0402. Info: 430-2161, ext.1955; [www.jonsimsctr.org](http://www.jonsimsctr.org).

### HMI @ Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

Harvey Milk Institute workshop: "FTMs of Color: Challenges and Strategies for Navigating Our Journey," with Prado Y. Gomez, Stacy Nathaniel Jackson, and Yoseño V. Lewis. Create a space for FTMs of color to explore the challenges we face daily. Discussion topics include dealing with primary relationships, friends, family, the workplace, health care, gender stereotypes, and the realities and misperceptions of male privilege. \$10-\$25 sliding. Noon-4pm. 4235 19th St. (at Collingwood). Registration/info: 552-7200; [www.harveymilk.org](http://www.harveymilk.org)

### SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a Water-scape of Mt. Diablo hike and enjoy the waterfalls of Back Canyon and Donner Canyon. It's a moderate 7-mile hike with a 1,100-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9:45am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Club info: 487-6410; [www.sfhiking.com](http://www.sfhiking.com)

### Crowne Plaza Union Square

Dignity/SF holds its 18th Annual *Pax et Bonum* (Peace and Goodness) Dinner and Awards. Honorees this year include Jeannine Gramick, SSND, a Catholic nun who recently was silenced by the Vatican from further gay and lesbian ministry, and Dick Kramer, who founded and/or directed various gay men's choruses. Chapter honorees include Wanda Redman and David Turner, RN. 7-10pm program; 10pm-midnight dancing. 480 Sutter St. Tix/info: 681-2491.

### The Edge

Mark Paladini presents "Arm Wrestling — Round 2," a fundraiser to benefit LYRIC (Lavender Youth Recreation & Information Center), a nonprofit LGBT teen support program located in the Castro. This amateur competition will flex plenty of muscle for charity (the last go-round at Uncle Bert's Place raised \$500). Show up and sign up. Special pins for the winner. With raffle and entertainment. No cover (\$7 beverage benefit offered at door). 6-9pm. 4149 18th St. Info: [www.sfevent.homestead.com](http://www.sfevent.homestead.com)

## Sun 1

### Club Rendez-Vous

Sweet Lips invites all to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Bay Area Reporter. Lips, who has been a BAR scribe for 30 years, walks the plank at Club Rendez-Vous and wants to raise a toast or two to all her loyal readers. Hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, and loads of memories. Noon-6pm. Followed at 7pm by "Male Strip Show" featuring the Men of Exotica. No cover. 1312 Polk St. (at Bush). Info: 673-7934; [www.ClubRendez-Vous.com](http://www.ClubRendez-Vous.com)

### LGBT Family Awareness Week

All Our Families Coalition presents the 3rd annual Family Awareness Week celebration, a showcase of the depth and variety of LGBT family groups in the SF Bay Area. The festivities kick off with a benefit reception at the Mt. Davidson home of Paula Ryan (2-4pm; \$25+), including hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, and continue with a public rally at Harvey Milk Plaza at 5pm. Bring tulips to pay tribute to Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, who signed Same-Gender Marriage into law in Holland effective April 1, 2001. The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence will bestow their blessings at both locations. RSVP for reception at 681-1960 or email [blessedutch@allourfamilies.org](mailto:blessedutch@allourfamilies.org)

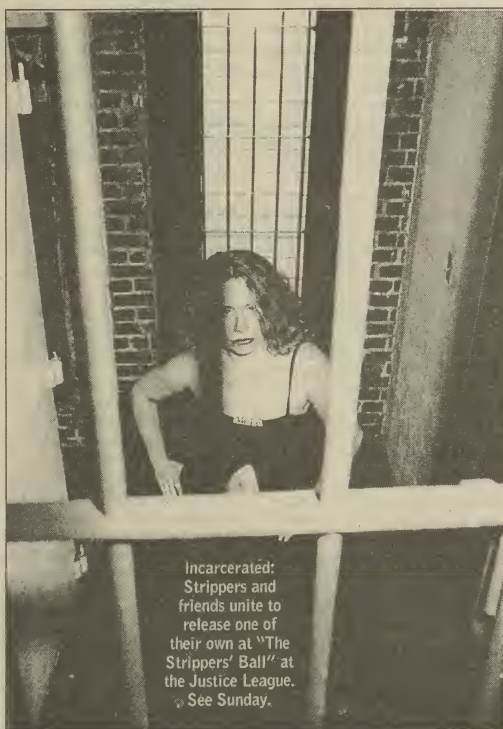
### The Justice League

DragStrip and HiFemme Productions present "The Stripper's Ball," a benefit to free Daisy Anarchy, activist and stripper, jailed over a child-custody dispute. Featuring strippers galore, plus Supervisor/comedian Tom Ammi-ano, MCs Lynnee Breedlove and Fudgie Frottage, Jade Blue Eclipse, Putanesca, Ramona's Dance of Fire, poet Dave Whitaker, The Ivy Monroe Band, a fashion show with Ruby Girl Designs, and Androgynous Androids, Sisters Kitty Katalyst, Dana Van Iquity, Oletta B. Demonic, Kandy Korn, and Sin D. Margolis. All support Daisy, who insists the man who fathered their child gained legal custody despite an abusive history with both herself and their daughter. Daisy serves on the board of the Harvey Milk Institute. \$20+ donation. Doors open 7pm; show at 8pm. 628 Divisadero (at Hayes). Info: 282-5378; [www.barstoclubs.com/strippersball](http://www.barstoclubs.com/strippersball)

## Mon 2

### HMI @ Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

Harvey Milk Institute free workshop: "Positive Rights in the Workplace for People with HIV," with Yong Lee and Kabir Hypolite. An overview of the civil rights protections that exist pursuant to federal, state, and local laws



Incarcerated: Strippers and friends unite to release one of their own at "The Strippers' Ball" at the Justice League. See Sunday.

Pictured: Ivy Monroe; photo: Roma Fotote



Nation disturbs the art world in "Music Box" at Space Gallery. See Friday.



for people living with HIV, perceived to have HIV, or advocating on behalf of people with HIV. Free. 6:30-8:30pm. 4235 19th St. (at Collingwood). Registration/info: 552-7200; www.harveymilk.org

**Piaf's Restaurant & Cabaret**  
QComedy.com presents "Gay Comedy Showcase at Piaf's," hosted by Lisa Geduldig. With Pippi Lovestocking, Janis Lipton, Chantal, Amma, Nancy Guaquier, Mary C. Matthews, Bridget Schwartz, and more. \$5. 8pm. 1686 Market St. (at Gough). 541-5610.

## Tue 3

### Intersection

Jazz at Intersection presents "God and the Prostitute: A Concert by Sebastian Robin Craig." Seven tableaux written for piano, bass, drums, alto/soprano, and tenor vocals by local composer Craig. It is another step in Craig's development of the "still opera," an abbreviated form of opera told in five to seven scenes. The story and libretto are developed from haiku poems that coalesce into one cohesive narrative. \$12-\$15 sliding. 8pm. 446 Valencia St. (btwn 15th & 16th sts.). Tix/info: 626-3311.

### Sadie's Flying Elephant

Queer Open Mic: Come read or watch hot rockin' queer spoken word (sometimes music and/or performance art too). Tonight's featured readers: Jan Richman and Berkeley slam genius Ariana Waynes. Hosted by local writers Tara Jepsen and Kris Kovick. \$1. 21+. Sign up at 8:30pm; show at 9pm. Corner of Potrero & Mariposa. Info: lululunk@yahoo.com

## Wed 4

### Great American Music Hall

In concert: gay singer/songwriter Holcombe Waller, celebrating the release of his new album *Extravagant Gesture*. With multitalented local bi musician Mark Growden's Electric Piñata. \$10. Doors open 7pm; show at 8pm. 859 O'Farrell St. Tix/info: 478-2277; www.musichallsf.com

### The Marsh

Preview: "A Mother's Heart," a two-woman, three-character play written and directed by Joyce Carol Thomas, about the bittersweet relationship be-

tween a devoted mother and her often-rebellious daughter, played by Marjorie Johnson and Marcie Henderson. Set in Berkeley, with scenes on a neighborhood basketball court, street parties on Telegraph Avenue, and within the home where mother and daughter engage in humorous clashes of wits and wills. Wednesdays are pay-what-you-can; \$14-\$17 Thu. & Sun.; \$17-\$22 Fri. & Sat. Opens April 6. 1062 Valencia St. Tix/info: 862-5750.

### Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial Branch Library

Opening reception: "GID: Gender Identity Disorder or...Girls in Drag," mixed media portraits. With a talk by Vancouver, BC artist S.D. Holman. Free. 7pm. Exhibit runs through June 4 at 3555 16th St. Info: 554-9445.

### Yerba Buena Center

Opening night gala: ODC/SF celebrates its 30th anniversary with a special edition of "Dancing Downtown 2001," including a cocktail reception, Gala dinner, and post-performance gathering. \$30-\$200. 5:30pm reception; 6:30pm dinner; 8pm performance. 701 Howard St. (at 3rd St.). Tix: 978-2787. Info: 863-6606.

### The Redwood Roller Rink, Redwood City

"Gay Roller Skating," where cruising and frolicking on wheels happens every Wednesday night. \$6 (includes use of skates if needed). 8-10:30pm. 1303 Main St., Redwood City.

## Thu 5

### Theatre Rhinoceros

Opening night: "Straight," a solo comedy written and performed by David Schmader, directed by Chay Hew. A biting look at the world of "conversion therapy," the psychological and spiritual procedure by which homosexuals are reputedly made "straight." Schmader stirs things up on stage by attending sessions with a German psychoanalyst, going undercover at "ex-gay" support groups, engaging in an intensive crash course in Christian heterosexuality deep in the heart of Texas, and delivering a critique of the "gay community," whose limitations rival those of the conversionists. The play asks audiences to reject easy answers and comprehend just what it means to be "straight." \$16.

8pm Thu.-Sat.; 7pm Sun. Thru. April 15. 2926 16th St. (at Capp). Tix: 861-5079.

### Studio @ Rhino

Opening night: "The P.A. Cooley Show: Where Murphy's Law is the Status Quo," featuring SF actor P.A. Cooley as the gay comic diva and star of his own Carol Burnett-style TV show, in no way helped by his dysfunctional cast of co-stars. The production consists of two episodes that satirize the politically correct take on spring holidays and the obsession with health and fitness. Each episode will run for three weeks. Directed by F. Allen Sawyer. Tonight's episode: "The P.A. Cooley Spring Spectacular." \$15 (\$25 both episodes). 8:30pm. Thu.-Sat.; 8pm Sun. Thru May 13. 2926 16th St. (at Capp). Tix: 861-5079.

### Metropolitan Community Church

"Resurrection Bingo!" with the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Cash prizes, good-luck charms, and wackiness. Tonight is "Play with Your Flute" night, in which everyone attending gets their own slide flute. 10 games with prizes up to \$250 per game. \$12 entry. 7pm. 150 Eureka St. Info: www.TheSisters.org

### SF Art Institute

Opening reception: "Live Forever," the first U.S. solo exhibition by Seoul-based artist Lee Bul (b. 1964), who has investigated issues of femininity and body politics, technology and society, art and gender, working in sculpture, performances, and multi-media installations. Free. 5:30-7:30pm. 800 Chestnut St. Info: www.sfai.edu; www.leebul.com

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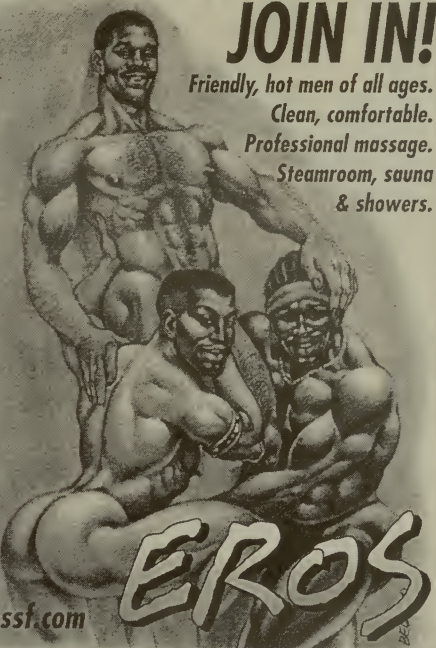
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# Sashes galore in LA, Philly and Amsterdam

by Mister Marcus

Three major leather title holders were sashed this past weekend – all on the same night, Saturday, March 24: Mr. Los Angeles Leather, Mr. Philadelphia Leather, and, in far-off Amsterdam, Mr. Holland Leather.

It being physically impossible to be at all three events, I made the trek to Philadelphia where Jim Madden marshaled a platoon of volunteers to put on another splashy event that saw three men and one woman compete for the title. Bob Buzby, Mark Collins and Bryan Poaches vied for the male title, and Patricia "Black Oak" Crossan went after the female title; being the only woman contender, she had to get 75 percent of the available points to win.

The contest at Club 24 on Saturday night took place after a fun meet and greet on Friday night at the Bike Stop and the pre-judging on Saturday morning.

It was fun judging with Mike Taylor, Vendela Zane, Mark Cady, and JoAnne Wadsworth. Frank Nowicki and Queen Cougar were absolutely magnificent as the emcee's, and the whole production went off without a hitch. Attendees were treated to a parade of colors put on by the bike clubs, the presentation of title holders, special awards for local unsung heroes, and the formal wear, speech, physique and fantasy segments. Patricia in particular made an impression when she was obliged to show off some very sexy and lacy "hot wear." More sexy wear was put on display at a well-run fashion show between scoring segments.

Bike Stop owner Jim Madden proved to be the perfect host for the out-of-town judges (next time you visit Philly, be sure to stay at Uncle's on Locust St.) and his abbreviated speech was to the point and inspiring. Mark Cady and JoAnne Wadsworth gave their farewells in a timely manner and both received a standing ovation for their year with the title marked



Patricia "Black Oak" Crossan and Mark Collins were named Ms. and Mr. Philadelphia Leather 2001 last Saturday night, March 24 at Club 24 in Philadelphia. Both will go on to compete at higher levels in 2001.

success and all in capital letters!

The final moment arrived at about 2230 hours, when the judges made their pronouncement: Mr. Philadelphia Leather 2001 is Mark Collins. The judges gave Patricia far more than the required points, and so she was sashed Ms. Philadelphia Leather 2001.

Bob Buzby was the first runner-up, while Bryan Poaches was second runner-up.

A victory party and beer bust ensued on Sunday for the new winners.

### LA to Amsterdam

In Los Angeles, nine men vied for the Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2001 title. Mark Malan stepped in at the last minute to emcee the event, which was judged by Jeff Wacha, Mikal Bales, Michael John Horn, Dave Murdoch, Ken Lankard, Scott Bloom and Mel Saddler.

Jeff Wacha gave an elegant stepping aside speech thanking and naming all the contestants

from last year, as well as his sponsors. His demeanor was top notch.

When the votes were counted, Peter Fitz (also Mr. Spike Leather) won the Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2001 title.

The first runner-up was Kevin Casey (Mr. Bullet Leather), and the second runner-up was Robert Blackmon (Mr. Sisters of P.I. Leather).

In Amsterdam, Holland, Jacques Happe was overjoyed by the turnout for the Mr. Leather Holland 2001 contest. Seven contestants took part, and the panel of judges included Mr. IML himself, Chuck Renslow, along with Henri Ten Have, Peter Schoonheim, Peter Assink, Darryl Lafayette and John Pijnburg.

Details of the event were sketchy, but more than 1,000 people were on hand at the competition to witness 30-year-old Miro Civin claim the sash as the new Mr. Leather Holland.

The first runner-up was Maarten van der Star, and the second runner-up was Rob van der Eng. Mr. Civin, who won the Mr.

next page ►

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Thursday, March 29

Mr. September 2002 will be chosen for the SoMa Bare Chest Calendar tonight at Harvey's. Nolan Finn will emcee. Win \$100, fame, and do your bit in the way of volunteerism.

### Weekend, March 30-April 2

In Seattle, Mr. Washington State Leather 2001 will be chosen at the Cuff Complex after a meet and greet on Friday, contest on Saturday, and Awards Show and Victory Party on Sunday.

In Long Beach, Scott Bloom steps aside as Mr. Pistons Leather at that fabled bar on Saturday night. A star studded panel of judges. Mark Malan has worked hard on this one! If you're in the vicinity, this is the only place to be.

### Saturday, March 31

Dyke Daddy and Dyke Diva contests tonight for San Francisco's leather women at Bottom of the Hill night club (17th & Missouri). Tickets are \$10 advance, \$12 door. Meet & Green on Friday at Daddy's and a dungeon party after the contest.

In New York, Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather Mike Marino presents "Porn Again," a mammoth porno re-sale of videos, photos, magazines, etc. at the Lure, from 1600-2000, with a special appearance by Lance Gear. Admission is only \$5 to benefit

God's Love We Deliver (NY) and Brother Help Thyself (Washington, DC). Don't miss this one!

### Sunday, April 1

The Bay Area Reporter celebrates its 30th year of continuous publishing, at the Club Rendez-Vous with Sweet Lips (our oldest columnist) hosting this afternoon with goodies and surprises galore.

Leather Forum of SF beer/soda bust at the Eagle, from 1500-1800 hours, for only \$8, featuring "butt painting" with Mario Torrigino and Donna Sacht.

### Thursday, April 5

Mr. October 2002 bare chest contest at the Powerhouse, at 2130. Among the judges: Nolan Finn, Jake from the Rush/Riv Eagle.

### Weekend, April 6-8

In Boston, it's Mr. Leather of Boston 2001 contest at the Boston Ramrod. Details sketchy, but if you're in Bean Town, be there!

### Sunday, April 8

Underwear Night benefit at the White Horse Inn in the East Bay, put on by Mr. Alameda Co. Jeff Miranda, from 1900-2200, with a 50/50 drawing, beer/soda benefit and underwear auction.



# Flip-flopping fun

by John F. Karr

Although I tried, I just couldn't commit to *The Sopranos* this year. It's a revenge's tale, after all, and I'm not a blood-thirsty person. All that plotting is so wearisome. And I had a number of glossy videos from Studio 2000 to watch, even though I also find their frequent insistence on plot tedious. They film better-than-average sex, but dull it with soggy music, antiseptically bright lighting (which is better than bad lighting, but still isn't good), and overwrought plotting. All these things, but most especially plot, stifle the spontaneity of the sex act, distancing the performers from the naturalness they need to bring to sex. Studio 2000 aims at mainstream, but too often that means an even tamer middle of the road. I just wish the company had more brio.

One thing I like about the company is the way they enjoy flip-flopping their tops and bottoms. Versatility is progressive, as well as stimulating. It's a fillip that enlivens *Head Strong*, a video which otherwise nearly drowns in plot scenes of five-minute duration. As the script wrestles performers into submission with its dreary tale of an anguished writer, we hear "I'm a writer. It's who I am, it's what I do," in not one, but two scenes.

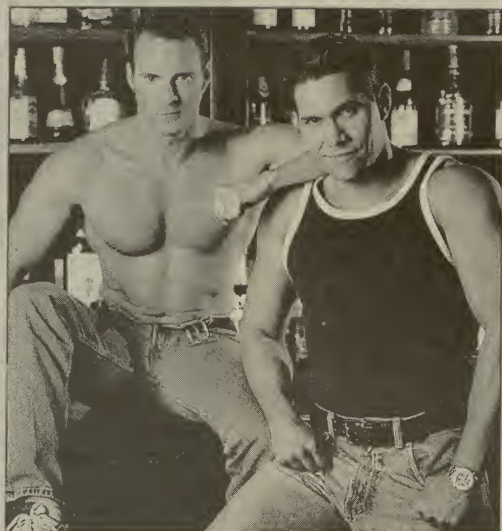
Cast members Spike and Jackson Price fare very well — theirs is the kind of scene you pay your money for. Imagine going through life with a cock like

Spike's, an obelisk towering from your groin. It's a real Hall of Famer. Price, a marvelously alert partner, realizes his obligation, and plays welcome host to it.

Steve O'Donnell and Christopher Scott begin their scene rousing, but things strangely falter when Spike is added. It's the first time I've seen Spike have difficulty staying hard. Perhaps it was the layering of plot — he's a fictional character having sex with his creators — and perhaps a good duo just didn't need a third. Fortunately, the video's finale picks up again, with Tommy Lord and butch-tyke Dylan Reece flip-flopping enthusiastically. I think this is the first time I've seen Reece top, and I hope it's not the last. The little bottom's a swell fucker, pushing the jiz right outa Tommy.

## Fine 'n' dandy

The *Hot Spot* is the most suc-



'It's fun to see Fine jab his fattie into Valley boy Brad Benton.'

cessful of the company's recent videos, and the reason is most likely that the plot gets out of the performer's way. The video is set in the already sexualized atmosphere of a bar, where the staff and patrons can easily get what

they — and we — so badly want. The delights here begin with Richie Fine, a nymphet with a broad slab of cock who indulges us with a lot of lickin' and pokin' and "I'll gaze deep in your eyes as I

run my tongue around the head of your cock" kind of stuff. It's fun to see Fine jab his fattie into Valley boy Brad Benton, and more fun when he impales himself on the boy's cock and strokes up a hurtling load of teenjiz.

Several subsequent scenes work as well. Adam Winters reveals a pert little beige hole, which trashy Anthony Cox caresses copiously with both tongue and digit before filling with a member rigid. The finale stars newcomer Dean Markham, who's a handsome leading man with a hulking leading cock; definitely top billing here. The rumpy Alex Martinez gets quite effectively pronged, before, as we've come to expect from Studio 2000, he tops the svelte Markham. *The Hot Spot* is a pretty likable movie, effective directly in proportion to the succinctness of a plot hook that lets the cast, with little interference, do what

they do best. Even the music is more appropriately moody in this one.

*Wet and Wild* is a similarly compact venture, capturing the surging energy and urgent hard-ons of its early-20something cast of prime bodies in a series of hot tub and poolside settings. The movie's find is Matt Majors, a lean kid with a cunning gaze and a horse's elongated prong. It's so long that the head of it sticks into his mouth when he's rocked back on his shoulders, his knees planted next to his ears as his gaping asshole is slathered up. Majors also knows how to jam all of it deeply into his partner's ass, delivering with quickly repetitive thrusts the sort of fucking that pushes your kischkes into your throat.

Next up is a swell trio that includes an even blonder Mark Rockwell, an even finer Richie Fine, and Kurt Wolfe adding his comely shape and, ultimately, his shapely cum. If the rapid way they change partners and positions is impressive, it also means the scene doesn't gain cumulative effect. Still, the sights along the way are pretty special. The movie continues with players like Cameron Sage, a beefy blonde with a USMC tattoo, and Matt Majors, who reappears in the finale with big pretty-boy Dave Nelson. Yet although the actors generate heat in these last scenes, the soundtrack covers them with paste. ▼

www.studio2000video.com

March 29 at 2100.

## More open

Ever wonder why certain people win leather titles and others don't? The guy — or woman — you're hoping will win is gorgeous, a drop-dead body and quite the person around town; yet, when the envelope is opened at the climax of a leather contest, your man — or woman — is sometimes not even second or third. Why is that?

Well, a few weeks ago at the Mr. South Plains Leather contest in Dallas, the interviews by the judges were open to the public. It was an innovative twist to the usual closed interview procedure. This way, spectators could see where their favorite contestant screwed up. They could tell if he

— or she — was aware or unaware of current leather events, or was capable of providing intelligent answers.

The concept worked well in Dallas, and the idea seems to be catching on in other competitions. The new Ms. World Leather contest, coming up this Labor Day weekend, will utilize the new system. If other contest promoters decide to go this route, you'll be able to see why some contenders prevail over your favorite.

Any comments? I'd love to hear from you.

Until next week, then, keep living, keep loving and keep laughing — just do it in leather! And don't forget to check out [www.leatherpage.com](http://www.leatherpage.com) for all the latest from leather columnists around the world. ▼

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## Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

Deaf Leather title in Prague, Czechoslovakia last year, will celebrate his 31st birthday during the IML 2001 weekend.

## With chests bared

Last Thursday night, March 22, seven men trekked to the stage of the Powerhouse to compete for the Mr. August 2002 spot on the SoMa Bare Chest Calendar. Judges Art Arciniega, James Geras, Houston Davenport and Ray Tilton were hard put to decide on a winner, but when all the votes were tallied, Gary Fruehlich won the spot and James Simpson was the runner-up. Mr. September 2002 will be chosen at Harvey's tonight,



## Larry Kramer

◀ Arts cover

serendipitously, is on the same day as the 1969 Stonewall riots. Clad in regulation tight jeans and veindisplaying muscle-hugging T-shirt, he leads the viewer on a tour of his early interest in Barbie, his fag hag pal Janice, and his first gay kiss at 16. From there, he moves into sketches of the personal ads, gay gym culture, the Village People, cruising, AIDS activism, and other byways of modern queer life. In one segment, he exchanges his jeans for a jock, sometimes pausing while the camera lovingly surveys his gym-fresh butt.

### 16 going on 17

More important than his admittedly intriguing ass are Drake's words, which he delivers in a dramatic, declamatory, musical style, adhering to some internal rhythm. Occasionally his phrases have a mildly felicitous ring: "Swim Team Tim," the title of one of the more successful sketches, had "the scent of that chlorine-bleached hair" that drove him crazy. Sixteen himself, he amusingly refers to Tim as "the older man, 17." But that's about as striking as his imagery gets. This laughter-and-tears show ultimately has too little of either.

Drake's delivery is hyperdramatic, sledgehammer, with a recurring motif of repetition. The

whole thing has the air of an overcaffeinated queer poetry slam; surely only in that realm would we hear such phrases as Drake's "Hour after hour after hour after hour" or, "the month after the night after the night after the night after the night after the night." Even the most banal insights get the royal repetition treatment: "I threw down those pages pages pages," "boys and boys and boys and boys," followed by the equally scintillating "I'm lookin' lookin' lookin' lookin'." Such repetitions

## Putting on a jockstrap, Drake pauses while the camera lovingly surveys his gym-fresh butt.

(there are many more) can be read as a stylistic signature — perhaps initiating a new genre, gay rap — but they are ultimately numbing and begin to look suspiciously like a cover for a lack of any real insight or inspiration.

There's also an interminable "gym bunny" sequence, where Drake carries on about the superficiality of that scene. He screams and flexes and pulls at his dick (outlined in his jockstrap), and he lifts an imaginary barbell up and "down down down to" — where else? — "the ground ground ground."

Drake fans may protest that he

is not really a writer but a performer, whose charisma compensates for these literary missteps. And he does have an undeniable degree of charisma; he's watchable even when at his most extreme. But too much of this performance reeks of self-indulgence, narcissism, and cloying sentimentality. Director Kirkman could have cut this 84-minute exercise in self-adoration to a more svelte 60 minutes or so without losing any of the punch. Particularly cut-worthy are Drake's reenactments of his child-

hood, which begin with him on his knees, not cocksucking like any queen worth her salt, but praying and chattering about Barbie and other done-to-death topics in a sing-song baby voice that's more embarrassing than evocative. Drake has been ranked by some critics with Spalding Gray and Sandra Bernhard, but such comparisons only point out his limitations, *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker* notwithstanding. ▼

**The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me** plays the Lumiere March 30-April 5.



David Drake's delivery is hyperdramatic.



Berkeley #23 (detail), by Richard Diebenkorn, 1955

## SFMOMA show

◀ Arts cover

his recent and older work. It's calm, spacious, magisterial, and a vivid reminder that even contemporary art can be beautiful in the classic sense, and contemplative, too. Cy Twombly's mixed media on canvas *Untitled* (1971) is in his trademark chalk-on-blackboard style, active in appearance, but surprisingly balanced in feel.

German artist Gerhard Richter, who was the subject of a knockout show at the Modern's old rented digs on Van Ness, has a room all to himself. He's always done provocative work, and it usually looks beautiful. Richter's *48 Portraits* (1998), though foolishly squeezed into a walled-off side of the gallery, is a ghostly assemblage of famous artist-intellectuals done in a deliberately anonymous style, all soft-edged blacks and whites. But the real revelations occur in two other photo-based paintings, the coolly observed yet passionate *Seascape* (1998) and the 1994 *804 Lesende* (Reader), an oil-on-linen portrait of the artist's pretty young wife



804 Lesende (detail), by Gerhard Richter, 1994

caught in the private act of reading, against a rich, seductive background of mostly rose tones. A work of this quality and refinement almost cancels the show's pretensions. Art can inform, but it should also move us, too. And that

seems to happen only rarely in these soulless, frantic times. ▼

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## BOOKS

# Sleepless nights

Bill Hayes, author of 'Sleep Demons: An Insomniac's Memoir'

by Gregg Shapiro

For insomniacs and sleepy-heads alike, Bill Hayes has written a book, *Sleep Demons: An Insomniac's Memoir* (Washington Square Press, \$24.95), filled with enough facts about sleep, sleeplessness, and himself to make losing sleep to read it worthwhile.

Finding his subjects in both the mythological origins of sleep and modern-day sleep science, Hayes writes with the voice of an expert. He also writes about his family with loving detail. He's the only son of six children; his father operated a Coca-Cola bottling plant in Spokane, Washington; he was raised in a devoutly Catholic household. His coming out as a gay man and his relationship with his life-partner Steve also make for compelling reading.

Gregg Shapiro: In writing *Sleep Demons*, did one aspect — the memoir or the research about sleep — come first?

Bill Hayes: I think from the very beginning, I decided to weave them together, that that would be an interesting way to look back on my life, by filtering it through the lens of sleep and sleeplessness. I wanted to make it not simply a memoir about a gay man or about insomnia, but a little bit more complex. My idea was not only to write an insomniac's memoir, but to write a biography on the life of sleep itself, following it from fetal sleep in the womb all the way up through sleep in old age.

Maurice Sendak, who is well-known for his bedtime stories, did the cover illustration. Have you ever met him?

I have the great good fortune to say that he's a friend. Before I'd even come up with the idea for the book, he was very supportive of my writing. He said, "If you ever do a book, I would love to do the cover." Well, what could be a better incentive? Not too long after that I

came up with the idea for the book. He kept his promise and came up with that gorgeous painting, which is based on a wonderful 18th-century painting called "The Nightmare" by a Swiss artist, Henri Fuseli. It shows a woman played out on a bed, eyes closed. She's having a nightmare, and there's a demon/goblin planted on her chest, symbolizing the nightmare. Then there's a mare (or night mare), just as in my book's cover, coming through the draperies. He did a pastiche of that painting, which was a favorite of his, and then added these wonderful Sendak touches, like the very Sendak moon and the other goblin. I've heard that the Fuseli painting was in Sigmund Freud's office. He loved it for the symbolism of nightmares and dreams.

You write about the connection between your "old nemesis, sleep" and the importance of sleep to Steve, your lover, who has AIDS.

That was really a turning point for me. Sleep had been my nemesis my whole life. Ever since I was a little boy, I'd had trouble sleeping. From my over-caffeinated childhood as the only son of a Coca-Cola bottler, up through my adolescence and into my college years, when I was struggling with coming out. Then I met this wonderful man and fell in love, and he was struggling with AIDS. While my insomnia became worse because I had even more frightening things to worry about as he dealt with his illness, I also saw that sleep was one of the most healing things for him.

In some ways, nothing made me happier than to see him sleeping, because I knew it was healing for his body. It took him away from having to think about his illness. In dreams, he could escape AIDS. Even a nap for him was something that I enjoyed watching. So to see him sink into it so peacefully made me view sleep differently. Yet there were nights when I would be lying next to him, wide awake, and I couldn't contain my own envy over the fact that he

could sleep so well. I would lose all of that compassion in the middle of the night and look over at him and think, "How the hell can he sleep so well?"

I have this private theory that other insomniacs might identify with: two insomniacs never end up in bed together. Whether it's a one-night stand or a 50-year marriage or a 10-year relationship like Steve's and mine.

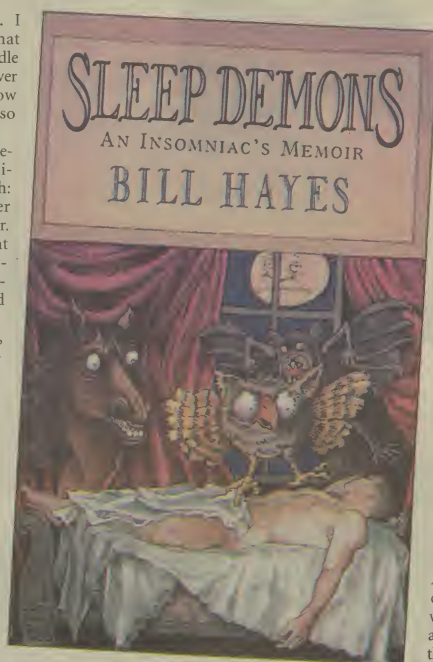
About six years ago, I was lying in bed, frustrated that yet again, I couldn't fall asleep. I looked over at him and thought, I would steal an hour of his sleep, if I could. I would sink beneath his eyelids and yank it out of him. I left the bed. It was a crazy notion, made more crazy by the fact that he had AIDS, and the one thing he desperately needed to get healthier, I was almost willing to take from him if I could have. The next day, I wrote down some of those lines, and they became the basis of a short essay that ended up in the *New York Times Magazine* about a year later. It was the first piece I'd written about

sleep and insomnia, and like nothing else I'd written before, it got attention; people saying to me that they had the same problem, or their partner does or son or daughter. Several people said that

I should write a book about sleep. I thought that was so ironic and hilarious because I felt like such a sleep failure. But it nagged at me, and I came up with the idea for an insomniac's memoir.

In addition to being about sleep and family, the book is also about AIDS. How do you think writing about AIDS has changed the face of literature?

I think it has forced especially gay writers to deal with a very powerful life-and-death issue in a way that we wouldn't have otherwise. I think it's introduced into literature some amazing works that are going to last. I think immediately of *Angels in America* and Paul Monette's memoirs. There was no question, for me, about introducing it into this story. It's been such a part of my life, not only with Steve, but when I first moved to San Francisco and even before. It's such a part of my life as it is for so many people and certainly all gay men, that there was just no question about it. ▼



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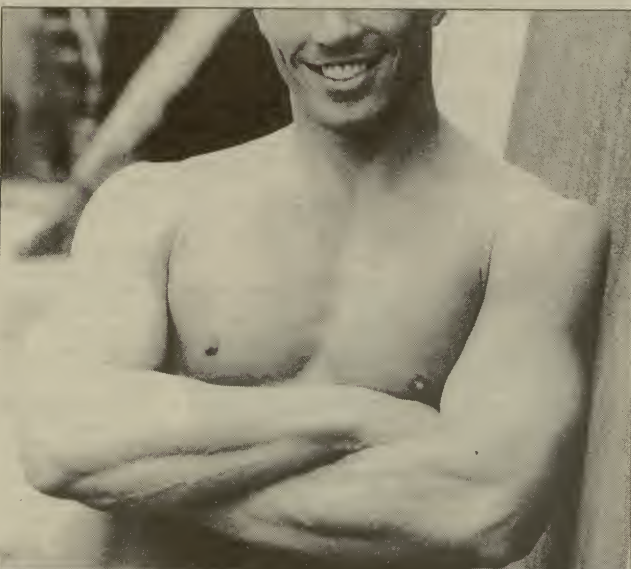


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## PARTING GLANCES

**"Steve", Please Call 'Joe' From-NYC**  
Mon. Jan 8, Golden Gate Park, sorry for the Big misunderstanding. I'm not playing games either. I don't have your telephone number. Let's try again. Please call. ☎ 72895

**Brook, 2/8 'Uncle Berts Place'**  
We had great conversation about Eastern Europe. I may have a room for rent. Should have given you my number but your F-train arrived. Hope we can meet again! ☎ 72896

**Joel- Who Lived On Hyde Street**  
Got evicted by G.B.- please call. ☎ 72897

**-Hot Frenchman!**  
French guy desired for love and adventure by hung romantic blue eyed European in late 30's. Let's meet in San Francisco or Europe... ☎ 72919

**Reno Airport-Feb 16, Fit To Oakland**  
Made eye contact waiting to board flt. 1724, Southwest Air. Missed chance to say hello. You: tall, black leather jacket, goatee. Me: tall, leather jacket. Would like to meet you. ☎ 72935

**Lone Star IIR Wkd 12:30am Sat. 2/17**  
You: White tee, salt & pepper hair & bushy goatee talking with three friends near patio bar. Me: blk leather jacket & cap, s/p beard; 5'11". Call me. ☎ 72920

**UA Flight Den To SFO Tues 2/13**  
Flt. 1065 5:10pm, you, seat 336. Me: seat 33A. You live in Petaluma. Hating myself for being so bashful. Would love to spend some time with you! ☎ 72921

**Market St. Safeway 2/15**  
We met inside. Me: good-looking GAM, said hello to you. You: tall, handsome White male, looked at me, as you left that Thurs. night. ☎ 72936

**Steamworks Ken Feb 19, Mon 2pm**  
Our encounter in back was unusually nice, you expressed same. Wanted very much to spend more time together. Looked for you later, kept looking. Was it just luck of rooms? ☎ 71049

**-Fiddler On The Roof 2/27-**  
We saw each other before show, during intermission, and after. I wanted to give you my business card, but you were gone. You, very handsome, dark featured. I have trimmed beard and with a woman wired hair. ☎ 71116

**Dublin/Pleasanton Bart 2/21**  
First car, 10:45am, from Glen Park. You: red jacket, jeans. Me: blue jacket, jeans, black umbrella, off at Powell. Us: lots of eye contact. ☎ 71050

**Castro Starbucks Sat Feb 24th**  
You with catch-22, and those keen, penetrating eyes. I could not get you out of my mind. ☎ 71051

**Berkeley Bart To SF 3/7**  
We both sat in back, eye contact, excited at Powell St. Station. You handsome Latino red & grey sweater. I Black male in blue sweater, too shy, call me. ☎ 71089

**Buddies, Thursday Nite March 8th**  
You: Jerry's comedic partner. Me: Mr. Pineapple- Guava lube- kissing you was stellar- would like to again. Call me. ☎ 71090

**Imperial Coronation Alexis Luv**  
I saw you across the gallery at the coronation. A lovely sight to behold to me, you look like an Imperial Princess. Can we meet for tea? ☎ 71091

**"Dasher", Watergarden 2/26**  
We had the greatest time. You had to work early. I'll drive north. Please call. Carlos ☎ 71092

**"Rod" From Sam Mateu's**  
Mon. March 5, "Buena Vista Park", I can't forget your beautiful butt, legs and kisses. "Let's try again". Please call. ☎ 71093

**Eric @ Badlands, Sunday 3/11**  
You: New Castle Brown, San Francisco. Me: Tanqueray and Tonic, New York, New Zealander. Together we drank shots. Let's be friends. Richard. ☎ 71112

**Sun 3/11 Blow Buddies**  
Jim- I had a great time. Don't know if you're available, but would like to see you. S. ☎ 71113

**Fr 3/16 Cont'l 11:30a NY To SF**  
U seat 14D. I in row ahead of U. Tall, green vest. U let me in row exit. Wanted to talk; deal from landing. Prepare for take off? 12FI ☎ 71114

**•Dolores Park, Jan 2**  
Garret, hospitalized that night. Just out. Call me before April 15th. Still need web site & manuscript back. ☎ 71115

**•Ryan At Pilsner Thurs Mar 15**  
You were VGL and nice. Me: Longish dark hair entertaining another. Wanted to entertain you. My friend hitting on you but you seemed interested in me. Let's meet again. ☎ 71117

**Guy @ Next Table Nirvana, 3/18**  
You: GWM, quicksilver on shirt sleeve. Me: GAM, red shirt, asked what you were having, very attracted to you. Eye contact. You winked as you left. You & I, dinner? ☎ 71118

**Tuesday 3/6 6am, Not Quite Dawn**  
You walking down 22nd St toward Eureka- I was walking small dog across the street. We both turned and cruised a few times. What about a early morning fun before work. ☎ 71119

## SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

**I Exist- Do You?**  
SWM, cute, athletic, 42/6/175, HIV-Neg, br/br, hairy, clean & horny, looking to serve similar attractive, clean, hung, & HIV neg dude. My place in SF. No reciprocation necessary. LTR possible. ☎ 72899

**SWM- ISO HIV+ Man Over 32/ Top**  
ISO nice looking boyfriend over 30, HIV+ top opened mind for more than sex. N/S ☎ 72900

**Rancher Seeks Cowboy**  
Rural living, rural lifestyle rancher 40's, 5'10", 180# masculine seeks to meet decisive, together non mainstream man, no drugs or disease for possible LTR. ☎ 72901

**Taco Seeks Hot Dog**  
Latino, 48, 5'6", 151# ISO GWM, 35-65. My interest: jogging, proposals, films, politics, classic rock, dylan. Into: oral, kissing, rimming. Sense of humor and hairy chest a plus. ☎ 72902

**"Your Place Or Mine?"**  
Healthy, good natured guy-weight proportioned, average looks, seeks same for fun times near Russian River or your place. Friendship or possible LTR. ☎ 72903

**Santa Rosa Area SF On Wk Ends**  
Seeking other hard bodies, I'm 47 handsome smooth 39" c, 29" w, 145# sincere, spiritual, strong & loving. Enjoy hot tub, massage & hot sex. ☎ 72906

**Poz GAM Seeks Fuckbuddy**  
Athletic bubblebut Asian 30's seeks fit GWM/GLM to 35 tops. I'm already in LTR & discreet, good kisser, bottom v-attractive. Can meet week-nights. Let's fuck! ☎ 72908

**Buddy Wanted**  
5'11", 198, br, br, HIV+, top. ISO hot White bottom bubblebutts, for get-togethers. 40+, HIV+, no games, n/d, n/d. ☎ 71067

**ISO Uncut Urban Cowboy HIV Neg**  
I'm 48 professional, 5'8", brn, blu, 170#, smkr, drnkr, honest, fun, travel, dinner, gardening, sports. Yu-loving, any age, stable, sincere, Noe Valley relocate? ☎ 71052

**Thoroughly Decent Soul**  
Desire more than hot versatile sex with honest available man 35-45. Me handsome, creative, musician, fit 6/190 42yo/gr eyes Afro-American heritage but with White Skin! ☎ 72922

**Black Men Who Seek White Man**  
Me: 5'8", 155 very loving, sexually bottom seeks BM who enjoys travel, movies, theatre and enjoying simple things with his loving male. ☎ 72923

**-Asian-**  
Attractive GAM, 53y.o. slim, 5'7", affectional seeking older GWM for LTR. Like: cooking, travelling, quiet times. No smoking. ☎ 72924

**Heart & Soul Hung Hung Big**  
Fun, playful, attractive, 37, 6'1", 177# br/gr, clean-shaven, Dutch background, HIV-, publisher, own flat, Lands End Trail, Bass Lake, heated pools, naked massage, Plush Room divas. Favorite food: Ciooppino. Favorite Book: Home & health 1887. ☎ 72925

**Lonely? Looking For A Friend?**  
Shy GWM, 57, 5'10", 165#, in San Francisco looking for companionship with another man who may or may not have the same problem getting to know other people. ☎ 72926

**HIV+, Blacks, Latins, Puerto Ricans**  
Wanted by HIV+, blond blue, 5'10", 160lbs. versatile bottom, 44yrs, genuinely honest & loving, in good shape, no fat guys. You be similar. I live near Chico, I'm willing to travel, please call me. ☎ 71053

**"Philippino Men!"**  
I would like to be your steady girlfriend. I am 6' 165lbs.- GWM. If you like to be sucked a long time- call me. Don't be lonely anymore. ☎ 71054

**"You'll Be Happy To Know Me!"**  
37, 5'8", brn, blk eyes. Athletic, nice body, versatile. You Latin or White, slim to medium body, versatile. Very open minded, like music, movies, dinner. Under 40yrs. Live in San Francisco- and like working out. ☎ 71055

**Let's Take Our Time**  
GBM, lean toned & fit 38. You 25-45, fit, versatile, n/d, in-shape. I'm funny, out going. Want more than a quick unsatisfying encounter, HIV-. Want sensual romantic type. No kisser need not apply. ☎ 71068

**Quiet GWM 54 Seeks Same**  
GWM 54, 5'9", 175lbs seeks GWM 45 to 65 preferably Fremont or So. Bay Area to go to movies, dinner, etc. LTR. ☎ 71069

**•Latino Encounters!**  
Looking for GWM 5'10", 165#, ☎ 72905

**Mendocino County Ukiah,**  
40yr old Latin, good, looking, caring, compassionate. Likes to party. Seeking gay male 35-50 for serious relationship. You must like to party. Sincere only please. ☎ 72904

**Good Man With Big Dick**  
Masculine HIV-neg 6'3", 185lbs, gym-toned, mid-50's GWM with beautiful 9 1/2 cock ISO one HIV-negative NS/ND muscle bottom for on-going sexual friendship. ☎ 71070

**Nice GWM 39yo Prof Seeks LTR**  
Looking for nice mature, sincere GWM 25-40 into outdoor and leisure activities for friendship and possible ltr. Me: avg. looking nice guy likes cooking, wine tasting, camping, music and friends. ☎ 71071

**HIV+ BLK 5'9", 165#...**  
Seeking to meet men in the fifty year age range. Attractive to thin or lean build guys only. Looking for fun open to relationships. ☎ 71072

**"GBM Seeks GWM!"**  
43yo, GBM, athletic, honest fun, seeking friendship to LTR, w/a fun, GWM into outdoor adventure and indoor intimacy. ☎ 71094

**"I Want You The Wright Way!"**  
GBM 50, top educated professional in need of GWM 50-60, bottom for dating, leading to a relationship with sexual healing. Let's dine, drink, smoke, converse and make love. Must be beely, hot nips ++. ☎ 71095

**White Professional Seeks Asian**  
For steady dating. I'm 6' 160lbs, lean muscular, attractive 46yo healthy HIV+. You're bright, cuddly, loyal, and conversant. ☎ 71096

**I'm Seeking Gigantic Nipples**  
Musc. GWM, 42 seeks a smooth, musc. Guy with huge, protruding nipples, to service on a reg. Basis, relationship oriented. ☎ 71097

**Lonely? Looking For A Friend?**  
Shy GWM 57, 5'10", 165# in San Francisco looking for companionship with another man who may or may not have the same problem getting to know other people. ☎ 71120

**-Italian Guys!**  
I was born to love you and I live to please you. I am every Italian male's dream! and every Italian male's fantasy! ☎ 71121

**Semi Retired GWM 60yr 6'2" Sks**  
Same 45 to 65 for new friends. I enjoy quiet evenings with someone special dining out or cooking in together. Enjoy my home, pets, gardening, long walks, mutual massage, oral sex, n/s, n/d pref. Hope you would like a new relationship. ☎ 71122

**Asian And Latino Men**  
Steady sex for Asian & Latino men. I'm GWM 6'2", 165lbs. Would like to suck you when you feel horny. Just a phone call away. Your sex object. ☎ 71123

**Seek Hairy Partner**  
GWM, 50, seeks 40-50yr old for LTR. Must be honest and have good sense of humor. My interests include traveling, movies, concerts, quiet evenings at home. ☎ 71124

**HIV+, Blacks, Latins, Puerto Ricans**  
Wanted by HIV+, blond blue, 5'10", 160lbs. versatile bottom, 44yrs, genuinely honest & loving, in good shape, no fat guys. You be similar. I live near Chico, I'm willing to travel, please call me. ☎ 71125

**"A Serious Ad!"**  
GWM, Artist, 43. Handsome, masculine, smart, creative, sensitive, funny. HIV-neg. Very non-scene. ISO GWM with similar qualities for dating, romance, LTR. ☎ 71126

**-Affectionate Men!**  
WLM 45, 6'160 dk hr. moustache ISO affectionate mover 50 with beards (full/bushy A+) for passionate kissing, cuddling, loners, rustic-looking A+. LTR, smokers ok but no drugs, gay scene. ☎ 71127

**Brains And Brawn**  
Attractive Black guy; smart, employed, independent, no games conservative, educated professional, 5'10", 180, 43, 44" chest, 31inch waist, uncut, muscular nice body, HIV+, mostly bottom. Seeking a masculine, muscular top. ☎ 71128

**•Mulatto Guy-**  
I am every White man's fantasy and I'm every White man's dream! ☎ 71129

## SEEKING ADVENTURE

**GWM 45, 5'9" 180 Bn/Bn Clean**  
Shaven with smooth med bld. avg. masculine looks, wants to meet men for friendship, play, easy going very oral. ☎ 72908

**Love to Service Mankind**  
Handsome, tall, in-shape, 43-yo, bottom loves taking it deep. Seeking dominant top, 30-55, masculine, HIV-, into light SM with affection. Hairy, endowed A+. ☎ 72909

**Erotica For You**  
Latino American hot and handsome looking for a GWM 6 feet and up for some fun and steamy night. ☎ 72910

**Strapon Topman**  
Dildo in harness belt wielded by strong masc Oakland WM, 54, 5'8", 175# bald beard for prolonged customizable dominative penetration of younger smaller athlete. No drugs. ☎ 72911

**Size Queen Sks Hung Top**  
GWM, 40ish needs a good workout. ☎ 72912

**I Like To Shove My Big Dick...**  
Down a guy's throat, and I like them to love it. I can go for hours. Can you? Mature, hairy pluses. ☎ 72913

**Palo Alto GAM 44, 5'11" Bk-Brn**  
185 likes giving oral in secluded area within mid Penin. to Santa Clara. Prefer thick members 7in to 9in w/no recip. 3pm-2am. ☎ 72914

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**\*Hairy Ex-Marine Daddy\***  
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**Latin/Mexicans!**  
I really like servicing my Mexican friends. W/M, 50, 5'11", 180. Do it your way- often and regulars. Married or single. 30-45. HIV neg. No drugs. ☎ 72916

**Good Old Fashioned Sweaty Sex**  
With hairy chested GWM, seek similar guys for all-nighters. Let's go at it! ☎ 72917

**Sexy Guys Wanted By Cock Slut**  
ISO sexy guys W/B to share my girl slut secrets. Be my part-time nasty boyfriend. B/W/M discreet. 31yo 5'10", 185#, attr, shaved, into all nite uninhibited partying, love to pose for camera. All male xxx video. ☎ 72927

**Low Hanging Ball Fetish**  
Bi curious W/M seeks smooth clean shaven A/W. You j/o yourself. I like and suck your loose warm balls. You be patient, understanding, submissive. ☎ 72928

**Formerly "Pete" On Sanchez Street!**  
Will be visiting SF March 15-22, hot, horny, Italian, 6', 200#, goatie & mst, very versatile, lv. a msg. Let's get together. ☎ 72929

**Asian, 5'7", 135#, ISO Of Fit GWM**  
For safe play and fantasy sharing and good service. ☎ 71056

**Time For Great Sex! ISO Top**  
For serious oral servicing. I'm handsome, 48, s&p hairy chest. Tall and lean and sexy. UB clean, in-shape, take control guy up for some discrete fun. ☎ 71057

**East Bay Cock Sucker Seeking**  
A local tool to service. Any age/race. I'm HIV-neg White, 6', 160#, 40's. Porn tapes while servicing? Camcord same close up? ☎ 71058

**-FF Butts Wanted!**  
Make me copy any FF tape. My med. hands up your butt for hours in return. ☎ 71059

**"Office Sex Slave!"**  
SWM, Contractor, 44, 6'2", 210lbs. masculine, good build-firm butt, kind, seeks 25-45 submissive, dark hair, hairy slender to well built male to strip, take orders, dress good, ns/nd. ☎ 71060

**Handsome Hung Italian**  
Super endowed 10'0" seeks another HIV negative extremely well hung man for oral sex. ☎ 71075

**Jerk You Off?**  
Want to strip, be tied up & fondled? Have your nipples, balls & hole teased? Tortured? Attractive, fit GWM, 40s, 6', HIV- prefers polite muscular boys, 25-50. ☎ 71061

**Explore Your Son/Slave Fantasy**  
Dad 44, 165, 5'9", goodlooking prof. Exp in beginning training in son slave fantasy. You be 21-35 and curious. I am safe, sane fun and will respect your limits. 71062

**-Magic Hands!**  
I give long, slow, intense, erotic massages. My table, my hands, my place, your pleasure. No formal training. Bi's and straights+ very discrete, versatile, and safe no reciprocation required. ☎ 71063

**I Love My Dad/ 5'9", 190lbs 42**  
GWM seeks very hairy daddy-types 40-60 for romance and fun. Very oral, affectionate and cute. Must have fun and outgoing personality. ☎ 71064

**Santa Rosa Area**  
Butt fucks 49 in good shape healthy good looking hung uncult, seeks bottoms must be very fit 25-45 tight ass A+. NS/ND call now. ☎ 71073

**Tall And Thin Top**  
6'150lbs, smooth bod, beard/stache, bibbly, 6+ says hard for you; average looks, mid forties, looking for bottom with eager mouth and butt, good rimmer A+, 55 and under. ☎ 71074

**Opposites Attract**  
Small-dick, Italian top looking for a small-dick, bubble-butt bottom. Any race under 40. Leave a complete description and best time to call. ☎ 71076

**Grind Your Hot Ass In My Face**  
Raunch lover, in-shape, 34, Oakland, seeks masculine men, 25 to 45, for ass-licking, cock sucking, fucking, foot worship, more mutual, or I'll service you. ☎ 71077

**"Strip Naked!"...**  
Then let me sensually massage every inch of your lean masculine body, free, fun for hairy or smooth guys, any race from 18 to early 40's by fit WM 43. ☎ 71079

**Very Att E Bay Bi 42 Thin DWM**  
In-shape, smooth, clean & HIV neg. 6'160lbs versatile- open man seeks a take charge tall, (Blacks a plus) man 35-55 for hot times. ☎ 71080

**White Male Only...**  
Looking to eat your pink ass hole, love sucking nipple too. You be 30/40/50 if older. Let's talk, you can do the same w/me. ☎ 71081

**\*East Bay\***  
Appreciative, mature Academic seeks Gay, Straight, Bi, exhibitionist or curious, 25-50 for private encounters at his home. ☎ 71082

**Filipino Top Wanted**  
Goodlooking, healthy, GWM, 36, seeks similar Filipino top under 40 for safe, fun times. ☎ 71083

**GWM Seeking GLM/GBM 4 Safe Sex**  
Jewish male, 43, 6', 164#, moustache, masculine, slim-build, top and HIV- seeking, Latin/Black guys, bottom, slim-average & HIV- adventures. No drugs and no flakes. ☎ 71084

**"I Can Be Generous!"**  
For passionate daytime sessions (oral and frottage) with tall, hairy, hung, cut topman. Me? 49, thin-defined body, nice guy. Call me! ☎ 71085

**"A Pilipino Man....."**  
Raped my cherryhole at Frenchy's. This chubby, blonde sissy wants to get raped again by a HIV-, safe top who'll french my neck and feel my tits, to bring out the sissy slut in me. If you french my neck and lick my tits, I'll suck and fuck your cock to bliss! Small only. ☎ 71098

**A1 Oral Service Delivery In SF**  
SF GWM, 48, 6'1", 190#, HIV-, handsome, delivers full deep throat oral service to mature HIV- men who enjoy face fucking and oral service with no reciprocation necessary. ☎ 71099

**Horse Hung Bottom**  
Tall, lean, masculine HIV-negative in-shape gym-regular mid-50's GWM with 9 inches, huge tits, solid ass needs in-shape HIV-negative height/weight proportionate ND muscle top, for regular safe fuckings. ☎ 71078

**FF Bottom Manussy!**  
Wide open and flutty. Fish fuck my manussy and see for yourself. Asian dude, 5'8", 165, brown, 39, sexy, very smooth, total bottom. ☎ 71100

**\*Hot Asshole- Deep Throat\***  
Older cocksucker loves to serve aggressive tops. Take my ass- please! ☎ 71101

**Head On The Island? Zip 94501**  
I unwind late afternoons with a beer, x video and a hot mouth around my 8". Serious oral experts only. Late weeknights also a possibility. No voicemail #s. ☎ 71102

**-Playtoy Wanted...**  
Bottom GSM, HIV+, ISO Latin HIV+ tops. 40-45yo for intimate encounters, starting from dusk till dawn. ☎ 71103

**56yr. Old White Top Big 9"**  
Dick Wants to fuck hot young White or Latino pig bottoms who are under 40. I am 6'0" drk bm hair 160lbs. glasses big 9" cock hairy chest. ☎ 71104

**"Hey Nude-Nicks!"**  
Hey are you up to sharing your "sun-belt" root-deck- or garden with a fellow nudist? Help me escape that dreaded fog. Am tall lanky and a riot. ☎ 71105

**Give Head To Handsome Latino**  
Trim, HIV- Latino, HIV-, 45yo, loves blow jobs, ISO any age or race, but trim. Will consider repeats. ☎ 71106

**Mature WM Hung Uncult ISO Good Sex**  
sucking-rimming-massage. 5'10". 178lbs- strong body- hairy chest muscular legs- 59yrs old HIV-neg. ☎ 71107

**"I Love Giving Head....."**  
To hot White & Latin guys between 30 to 45yo. Me: GWM, 42, 6'2", 200lbs. great mouth & throat for your pleasure. HIV- lv msg. ☎ 71108

**Blonde Oral Slave For Hairy Man**  
Gd'king, GWM, 5'11", 150, 45, thin, experienced boy-man, needs very hairy daddy-master. Wknds & extended week stays possible. Cock-sucking, face fucking, rimming, water-sports, bondage, light to medium S/M. Use me as you have imagined. ☎ 71109

**-Big Beefy Tits!**  
Milk'em, hold'em, let me feed them to you. Big husky bear into guys who are into big tits. Age, race, age not important- knowing what you like is. ☎ 71130

**"Older Black Men!!!"**  
Healthy HIV+ WM bottom, 58, seeks older Black men that wants a buddy to call for eager service, when the need arises. NoBAY A+. ☎ 71131

**Super Hung Guys Wanted!**  
If you are hung "9" inches or more, call me. I'm hung 9" and I'm looking for hung guys to party with & have fun. ☎ 71132

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5'10" clean cut, slender 37 Asian. Not into scene or stereotypes. Responsible and stable. Enjoy long play, kissing, jo, oral showers, lots of body contact. ☎ 71133

**HIV- Oral Enthusiast ISO Same**  
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**"Do You Need A Daddy?"**  
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**Hairy And Uncult**  
W male 50yrs slim hairy 7inch uncult HIV- seeks w male HIV- for oral play. ☎ 71136

**-Up To Service!**  
You kickback. I'll take time and suck cock and balls. Plus if your cut and hung thick. Me GWM, healthy, negative. I love cock. ☎ 71137

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**Compassionate Cocksucking!!**  
Thanx Pres. W (you yoyo) for your one contribution maybe ever. Hey guys--this is the story that asks the question: "Am I your best cocksucker yet?" Answer: yep! ☎ 72930

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**Daytime Asshole Eater!**  
Get your asshole eaten by a pro!! ☎ 71087

**\*Seeks Nip Pig Wk-Out Buddy\***  
I'm a 46yr. old aggressive bottom bear "nip-pig" with huge erect nips. I'm stocky/ 200# brn, brn, salt & pepper goatie, tat's piercing, smoker! ISO super masc, muscular dominant "bear daddy" nip-pig for serious nipple workouts and growth in mind! Smokers A+. Please call. ☎ 71110

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**My Idea Of Ideal Cocksucking:**  
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# Exit wounds

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Oh, it's the end of the world as we know it, but we feel fine. Talk about March madness! Forget basketball's battling Sweet 16 (Go Owls!). The real battle is in the Beltway as George Bush madly set the time machine to Cold War. Dubya promised to bring back the good old days, and he has, with a vengeance. Reaganomics rules the stock market, and Russian diplomats are being expelled from Washington. What year is this? National Security Advisor Condoleezza "You can call me Dr. Strangelove" Rice says it's time to show the Russians, North Koreans and Iraqis who's boss. Meanwhile, Dubya is hanging out in Tijuana with Vincente Fox drinking virgin Margaritas and singing Jimmy Buffett tunes to a Mariachi band. Suddenly, John Ashcroft is looking like the benign member of the gang.

With all this going on we kind of liked the cosmic — or is that cosmonaut? — metaphor of Mir shattering into the South Pacific. Speaking of which, Glenn Close did a pretty good reprise of Mitzi Gaynor in this week's TV remake of the 1949 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical. If you missed that enchanted evening, you can rent it on video next month and just wash that man right out of your hair.

Surprisingly, our favorite TV moments this week were not during the Academy Awards, but the Sunday morning talkfests. We're positively giddy at how even Republicans are shocked by Bush's slash-and-burn campaign, in the economic arena and the environmental. Everyone was so stunned that Dubya went back on his word about air quality and emissions standards. Guess no one watched those advertisements during the campaign on how Bush had made Texas's air quality the worst in the nation. TV only works, kids, if you tune in.

As if Dubya weren't enough of a shock to one's system, our favorite lesbian warrior princess, Xena, beloved of dykes the world over, is leaving TV. Just when we could use a lesbian warrior to hit a few guys below the Beltway. Not since Diana Rigg in *The Avengers* has an acrobatic killer chick in leather so captivated lesbians as Lucie Lawless did in *Xena*. More



Lucie Lawless as Xena: Adios!

even than her warrior antics, however, we'll miss Lawless' acerbic wit on the talk circuit — and her lovely voice (she sang opera in New Zealand before her reincarnation as Xena). Hail Xena!

## Girl talk

Speaking of warrior princesses, the Material Girl is news again. Not because she's given birth to another illegitimate child nor married to the tune of several million, but because her latest music video has been banned from TV — network, cable, and even the renegade MTV and VH1. We have to give the girl credit — this chick has turned sows' ears into a silk-purse marketplace. We love Madonna, but her talent has always been in performance and reinvention, rather than actual musical ability.

Her new video "What It Feels Like for a Girl" takes a mediocre song and turns it into high art, with the help of some shoot-'em-up direction from hubby Guy Ritchie. The video's hot and incredibly violent, making one ironic comment after another on what it's like to be a girl in a man's world. But the pundits don't get it and hate that she pulls a gun on some cops (it's a water pistol), steals, sets a guy on fire, and some other hellacious stuff. MTV banned it — when did they get a conscience? — as too violent.

Excuse us, but have they looked at their male line-up lately? MTV did this with Madonna's "Justify My Love" years ago because of the S/M and bondage sequences, re-

stricting it to afterhours play. The censoring made it her best-selling music video. We imagine the same will happen with "Girl." And so we bow once again to the Material Girl's marketing instincts. No creepy Michael Jackson comebacks for her, no Debbie Harry disappearances for a few decades. This chick hasn't stopped since she took the bus out of Queens, and at 43 she's still a hot ticket item. Britney, Christina and J-Lo take note. This, girls, is how you parlay a soupçon of talent into an empire.

Speaking of parlaying soupçons, Jack Dreamer is suing the producers of *Will & Grace* over the character of Jack, for which portrayer Sean Hayes, brilliant in the role, won an Emmy. Dreamer says producers based the character on him and promised a house, car and bucks in exchange. We can't wait to see how this plays out. For the record, we feel compelled to argue that if Dreamer were such a hot-ticket item, wouldn't he be playing himself? After all, isn't Jack merely Everyflamer?

## Oust back

Speaking of searing the small screen, the Outback is heating up on *Survivor*. We still can't guess who the closet queer is, but the recently ejected Alicia (why do the black women get tossed quicker than the guys?), she of the abs of steel, did a turn on *Rosie* last week where she was beyond hot. We always liked Alicia and her acerbic goose-necking bitching at the irritating Kimmi. There was never a question that she was the fittest

girl in the Outback — a dangerous thing, hence her ouster.

Rosie has dissed Alicia since *Survivor* began, so when Alicia ran down the aisle (to the theme music from *Rocky*), we weren't sure what to expect. Alicia was wearing a black coat-dress and high black boots, and looking quite sleek. After hugging Rosie,

she said she wasn't sure what to bring the daytime diva, so she brought her this — and ripped open the jacket to reveal the silver bikini she wore throughout her stint in the Outback. Talk about lesbian in-jokes.

As for Alicia's performance on *Rosie* and *The Early Show*, keep an eye out for this girl, she's got star quality written all over her (Rosie's already hired her as a personal trainer, not that anything but a body transplant could help). Smart, witty and more than able to hold her own with the big girls.

Speaking of big girls, we have to applaud Barbara Walters for her *20/20* interviews with queer parents and their kids. The kids were articulate (even the eight-year-old) and, though all white, definitely diverse in experience and perspective. We also liked seeing gay dads with daughters. It was a moving story, and Walters, who always manages to break ground while others are simply breaking wind, did a superb job.

Ground-breaking is something ABC does a lot, and last week's episode of *Gideon's Crossing* once again dealt with a queer issue (this makes three episodes in a row, more than a fluke, we'd say), the controversial question of whether people

with HIV/AIDS should be eligible for transplants. Sensitive done, again. GLAAD, are you watching?

We're surprised by how little fanfare has attended the debut of one of the few out gay actors to play an out gay character on a prime-time series. We refer to our fave Kid in the Hall, Scott Thompson, now a regular at the Barkery on NBC's (are they officially the queer network now?) hit *Providence*. Thompson is divine as the dog-biscuit chef and fits well into the ensemble cast led by Emmy-winner Melina Kanakaredes. Since we love Kanakaredes and have since her debut eons ago on *Guiding Light*, where her flawless Greek accent and amazing bone structure left us flushed, we've always been a sucker for this feel-good show. Unlike Bill Brochtrup on *NYPD Blue*, Thompson gets to do more than wring his limp wrists. Worth a tune in.

Also worth a look is *Big Apple*, the gritty new show from *NYPD Blue* alum David Milch. A strong ensemble cast led by Ed O'Neill and Titus Welliver keeps the slow-but-steady pacing of this cop drama edgy, as does the fine dialogue and story. The bad news is the show's opposite the best drama on TV, *The West Wing*. If you have more than one VCR, tape it.

Finally, our quote of the week once again comes from Bill Maher on *Politically Incorrect*. After noting that he had given Bush a few months' slack ("new guy, new job") before he took him to task, Maher — well-known for his environmental activism — declared the gloves were now off. Said Maher, "The only difference between George Bush and a bag of manure is the bag."

Are they testing for Mad Cow in Texas? Or Washington, DC? ▼

## Lavender Tube

# Soundtracked

by Gregg Shapiro

Television soundtracks are gaining on movie soundtracks in popularity. *Music from Malcolm in the Middle* (Restless) is the latest television soundtrack with songs by a variety of cool and cutting-edge performers. Beginning with the giddy "Boss of Me" by They Might Be Giants, this soundtrack captures the goofy spirit of the television show from which it is derived. Other highlights include "You All Dat" by Baha Men (which features an infectious "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" sample), "Been Here Once Before" by Eagle-Eye Cherry, Citizen King's appropriately titled "Bizarro," and "I Just Don't Care" by the Dust Brothers (featuring "episode dialogue"), as well as songs by Travis, Barenaked Ladies, and Hanson.

Josie, Melody and Valerie are the

latest cartoon characters being brought to "live action" life in a movie. *Josie and the Pussycats - Music from the Motion Picture* (Play-Tone/ Epic/ Sony Music Soundtrax) features Kay Hanley (of Letters to Cleo) singing all the lead vocals as Josie, played in the movie by Rachel Leigh Cook. In addition to a harder-rocking version of the cartoon show's theme song ("Josie and the Pussycats/Long tails and ears for hats/Guitars and Marshall stacks/Hot, sweet, super cool/Don't you know these kitties rule"), the soundtrack includes Josie and company's versions of classics such as "Money (That's What I Want)" and "Real Wild Child," along with originals such as "3 Small Words," "Pretend to be Nice" (written by Fountains of Wayne's Adam Schlesinger), and "Spin Around" (co-written by Counting Crows' Adam Duritz).

*Bridget Jones' Diary* (Island) is another soundtrack to a movie

with a strong female lead. A vast improvement over the *Josie* and the *Pussycats* soundtrack, *Bridget Jones' Diary* features an exceptional selection of new and previously released material that makes it a genuine keeper. Recent Best New Artist Grammy-winner Shelby Lynne gets things started with the catchy "Killin' Kind," and returns again later on the disc with the song "Dreamsome," from her Grammy-winning disc. Sheryl Crow uses electronic beats to propel her song "Kiss that Girl," and Robbie Williams delivers a cover of "Have You Met Miss Jones?" (a song made famous by Frank Sinatra). Other covers include former Spice Girl Geri Halliwell doing "It's Raining Men" and Jamie O'Neal performing "All By Myself." The required classic tunes (essential to every soundtrack, it seems) include Chaka Khan's "I'm Every Woman" and "Stop, Look, Listen (to your Heart)." ▼

## Queer parenting

◀ page 31

gay parents entering school?) "That's the nature of how I approach life, how I approach parenting, and how I approach my work," she explains. "Self-reflection is how we come to pride, both gay pride and every kind of pride we experience." By identifying their values — and learning to de-

fend them — Brill says parents can feel more prepared for tough decisions when they do come along.

"In being a parent, it's important to realize there's no one right way to do things," she says. "Instead, you have to think about what's right for you, and what's right for your children." Her own advice for prospective parents is to wait "until you're ready to incorporate your children's needs into your life."

Apart from her research, has

she noticed a major queer parenting trend here in the Bay Area? "Oh yes," she says. "Significantly more every year." It's a different landscape from even a few years ago. "We would search and search for kids Gi's age who had gay parents," she says, but these days, "I can't even begin to count the amount of two-year-olds I know who do. The difference is dramatic." Which means *The Queer Parent's Primer* may have arrived just in time. ▼

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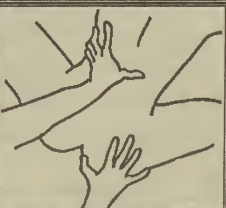
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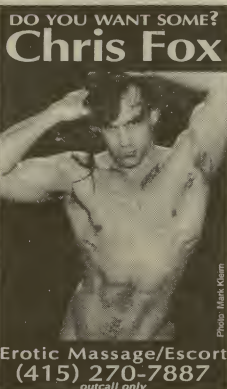


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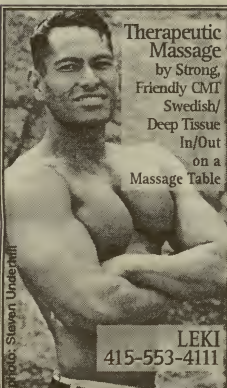
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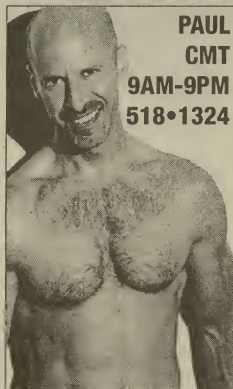
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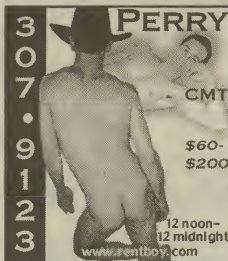
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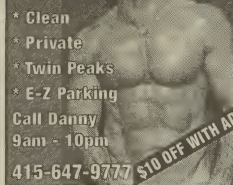
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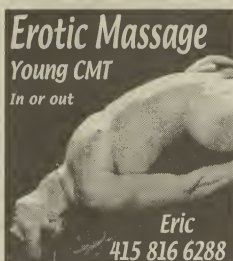
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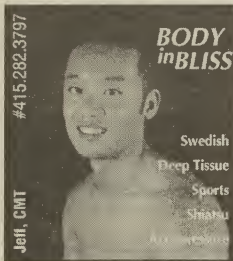


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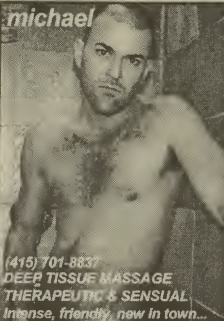
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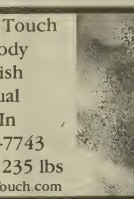
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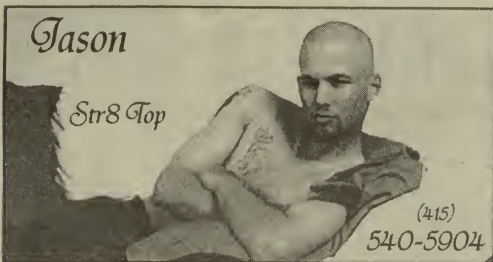
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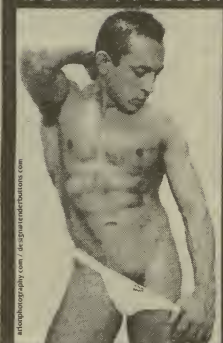
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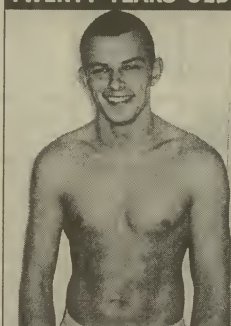
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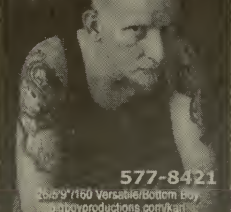
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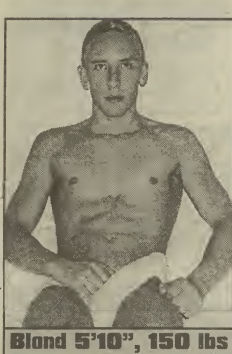
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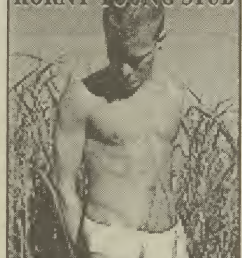
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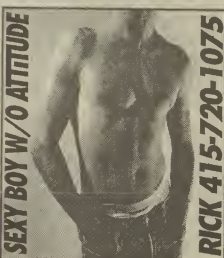
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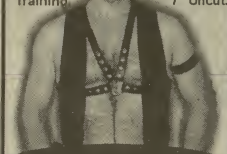
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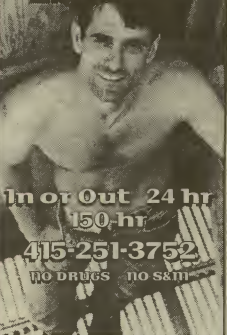
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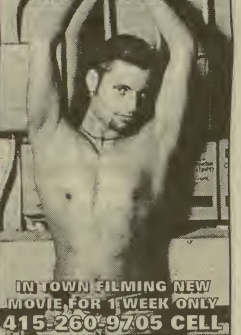
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**BAY AREA MEN**  
• Live Talk  
• Meet Ads  
• Voice Mail  
**24 Hours**  
**\$2.00**  
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WM, well bit, 8", nds well bit men  
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float for the SOMA Bare Chest Cal-  
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next June. Bldr must be resp for dis-  
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861-3247 and leave your contact in-  
formation. We'll get back to you!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO  
HOUSTON DAVENPORT  
MR. SF LEATHER 2001**  
and good luck in Chicago next May

**415-MAN-TALK**  
626-8255  
TALK\*SEX\*PERSONALS  
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\$60 Full Body Massage 75 min  
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Cut & Uncut Latin, Black & European  
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me doggie style. Gary 252-8938

Body Trim & Shave \* Castro Area  
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**STRIP? HUG & KISS**  
Let an older man see, feel your physi-  
cal beauty? I am Asian 65, 5'9" 150.  
Please be trim or muscular gd lknng &  
under 40 and sincere please. 510-  
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This GWM will be in SF in early  
June. I am looking for a man or men  
in their 20s-30s who enjoy coffee  
shops, book stores and love exch mas-  
sages. Todd PO Box 7861, Aurora, IL  
60507

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:  
PETER FITZ, MR. LOS  
ANGELES LEATHER 2001**  
and good luck in Chicago in May!

**BIG BEEFY TITS**  
Milk 'em, Hold 'em, Pinch 'em  
Let me feed them to you  
Big husky bear into guys who are into  
beefy tits and know how to please.  
Age, race, looks not important.  
Knowing what you like is. Call 522-  
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**CONGRATULATIONS TO:  
MARK COLLINS & PAT  
CROSSAN**  
Mr. and Ms. Philadelphia Leather 01  
Good luck at the next level!!  
Great Head 415-826-6858\*Castro



## PEOPLE

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STAY WITH  
FUNKY GAYS AND FREAKY MEN

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TALK\*SEX\*PERSONALS  
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talk 1-1 or interactive menu for  
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Connect with **HOT LOCAL MEN!**  
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Browse Match Chat! 18+  
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Use Access Code 1348

**Meet Local Men!**  
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**HOT SEXY LOCAL MEN!**  
TONIGHT on  
The Confidential Connection®!  
Listen & Respond to personal ads! 18+  
Call 415-247-2000  
Use Access code 3981

Should the public be allowed to sit in  
during judging interviews at leather  
contests? Email me your opinion:  
**HATCHETQ@AOL.COM**

Blowjobs, etc. 415-285-8390

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Good food, good drinks in a casual  
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Open daily M-F 11am-midnight, Sat  
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now call 752-0971

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## BAY AREA REPORTER

## CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

Indicate  
Type Style  
Here ▼

**X-BOLD** Stops Here ▼

**BOLD** Stops Here ▼

**CAPS** Stop Here ▼

Regular Stops Here ▼

## DEADLINE

**NOON on MONDAY.**

Payment must accompany ad.  
No ads taken over the  
telephone. If you have a  
question, call 415.861.5019.  
Display advertising rates  
available upon request.

## RATES

First line, Regular 4.50  
All subsequent lines 3.00  
CAPS double price  
**BOLD** double price  
**X-BOLD** triple price

## PAYMENT

- ☐ Cash  
☐ Personal Check  
☐ Money Order  
☐ Visa  
☐ MasterCard  
☐ American Express  
Minimum \$10 charge.

## CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Issues \_\_\_\_\_ Classification \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL WITH  
PAYMENT TO:**  
Bay Area Reporter  
395 Ninth Street  
SF, CA 94103  
**OR FAX TO:**  
415.861.8144  
**OR E-MAIL:**  
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So you've typed yourself numb  
describing yourself. You're "Rod,"  
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So get off your cotton candy ass  
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